



[View Item](#) ▾

Musical topics in the comic book superhero film genre

[View/Open](#)

YOUNG-DISSERTATION-2013.pdf (4.127Mb)

Copyright
By
Matthew David Young
2013

Date

2013-08

Author

Young, Matthew David

Metadata

[Show full item record](#)

Abstract

The comic book superhero film has become a mainstay amongst Hollywood blockbuster films. However, despite their popularity and financial success, the genre has only recently begun to receive scholarly attention. In particular, there has been little research on what traits distinguish and define the genre, and even less on the music which accompanies the films. This scope of this dissertation can be divided into three parts. First, it is a study of the superhero film genre. I provide a historical overview both of the superhero comic, as well as its filmic adaptations -- delineating the semantic and syntactic traits of the superhero film genre and the ways in which it adheres to and differs from its encompassing genre of the action film. Second, it is a study of the music for superhero films. By examining the musical themes of superhero films over time, I establish what musical parameters are held in common amongst superhero films -- namely, what contributes to the comic book sound. Finally, it is a study of topic theory, and in particular, how topical analysis can function within, and enrich the study of film music. By expanding on topical theories established for the study of classical music, I further systematize the topical study of film music, using superhero films as a model for demonstrating the potential for new musical topics to be uncovered through the topical analysis of film music.

Department

Music

Description

text

Subject

Musical topics
Superhero films
Film music
Comic book superheroes

URI

<http://hdl.handle.net/2152/21430>

Collections

UT Electronic Theses and Dissertations



The University of Texas at Austin

University of Texas Libraries



CONTACT US

MAPS & DIRECTIONS

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[UT Austin Home](#)

[Emergency Information](#)

[Site Policies](#)

[Web Accessibility Policy](#)

[Web Privacy Policy](#)

[Adobe Reader](#)

[Subscribe to our Newsletter](#)

[Give to the Libraries](#)

© The University of Texas at Austin

By examining the musical themes of superhero films over time, I establish what musical parameters are held in common amongst superhero films -- namely, what contributes to the comic book sound. Finally, it is a study of topic theory, and in particular, how topical analysis can function within, and enrich the study of film music. By expanding on topical theories established for the study of classical music, I further systematize the topical study of film music, using superhero films as a model for demonstrating the potential for new musical topics to be uncovered through the topical analysis of Superhero comics are one of the most common genres of American comic books. The genre rose to prominence in the 1930s and became extremely popular in the 1940s and has remained the dominant form of comic book in North America since the 1960s. Superhero comics feature stories about superheroes and the universes these characters inhabit. Beginning with the introduction of Superman in 1938 in Action Comics #1 — an anthology of adventure features — comic books devoted to superheroes (heroic people with Seeing our comic book heroes represented on the big screen by A-list talent is a dream come true for a lot of people. But there's also a lot to choose from in regards to what's available for viewing, and that can make picking a movie worth watching a bit more grueling than some people want. To cut through the fat and get down to the nitty gritty, we've rounded up the 30 best superhero movies of all time on the following list. While there are characters that have appeared in the comics of the same name, this film marked a fairly large departure from the source materials, while still remaining true to its finer points — both making for an excellent execution of what was admittedly a risky adaptation. Year Released: 2015 Critics Score: 82% Audience Score: 86%.