

Musical Taste Profile Project

Name: Madie Trolinger

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Song #1 Title: Of These Chains

Year Written: 2015

Artist/Musician/Band/Performers: Red

Link: <https://youtu.be/peiXG3utw-M>

Genre: Christian Rock

Accolades: #14 on US *Billboard* 200 (2013)

Form: Verse-Chorus (Approximately ABABC)

Texture: Homophonic

Tempo: Moderately Fast (Allegretto) yet Lyrical, Some Moments of Ritardando

Dynamics: Mostly Soft, Includes Crescendos/Decrescendos

What To Listen For: If I were to introduce this piece to someone, I'd have them listen closely to the lyrics. I'd also ask them about the tone color of the piano/strings with the voices.

Response: Of These Chains is one of the most beautiful, poetic, and vulnerable songs I've ever heard. As a child, I roleplayed with my best friend, Logan, after school all the time. Hearing this song, I remember Adrienne Rayne— my fictitious persona from those days. Both she and Logan mean so much to me even now. I absolutely love the lyrics of this piece; they speak of humanity's struggle to escape sin. Additionally, the violins and piano create a rich, emotional sound. It's been over two years since we've roleplayed together. Hopefully one day we can continue and this song shall evoke memories once more.

Song #2 Title: Hypnosis

Year Written: 1994

Artist/Musician/Band/Performers: Ian Clarke

Link: <https://youtu.be/aPQtK3lZPVw>

Genre: Instrumental

Accolades: N/A (Couldn't find anything specific)

Form: ABCDA'B'C'D' (I'm not sure if this is quite right)

Texture: Homophonic

Tempo: Slow (Adagio) and Expressive

Dynamics: Wide Range - Lower Notes = Usually Softer, Higher Notes = Usually Louder, Emphasis on Crescendo/Decrescendo

What To Listen For: Clarke incorporates some really cool playing techniques in his music. While they are less present in this particular piece, one can still pick up on the wide pitch ranges, glissando runs, and differences in articulation.

Response: I heard this piece for the first time at a flute studio recital during my sophomore year of high school. After starting private flute lessons with Mrs. Isenhower, my flute skills vastly improved. Once my senior year came around, I'd fallen in love with Ian Clarke's music and

wanted to play the same piece I'd heard years prior. I ended up playing Hypnosis as my solo for our studio recital along with Maya and Within, two of Clarke's other pieces. I'd invited my band director to watch and everything. I love this piece not only for its mysterious, ethereal sound, but also for its memories. Hypnosis and all of the other pieces I played that day served as the culmination of four years of study. I made such wonderful friendships in the flute studio and I wouldn't trade the experience for anything.

Song #3 Title: Bloody Stream

Year Written: 2013

Artist/Musician/Band/Performers: Coda

Link: Full Version - <https://youtu.be/hmpJqJLsR48> (Anime Opening:
<https://youtu.be/KnmH7qQ0AVM>)

Genre: Funk (Anime Opening)

Accolades: #4 on Oricon's Weekly Album Charts (2013), #7 on Billboard's Japan Hot 100 (2013), #3 on Japan Hot Single Sales Chart (2013), #2 on Japan Hot Animation Chart (2013)

Form: Verse-Pre-Chorus-Chorus (Approximately ABCDABCD C)

Texture: Polyphonic

Tempo: Fast (Allegro) - Maintains Consistent Speed

Dynamics: Mostly Loud and Upbeat

What To Listen For: A key feature of this song is the trademark trumpet sound with all of its runs and flares. One should also listen to the cool, smooth voice of Coda and how his tone color ties in with the rest of the song.

Response: Until I came to college last year, I had no idea what JoJo's Bizarre Adventure (the anime this song is from) was about. All I knew was that my friends sometimes watched episodes in the lounge. One day, I decided to join them. Now, this anime is my all-time favorite. Of all the openings, Bloody Stream is one of the best: animated, energetic, and stylish. Above all, it really defines the bizarre, colorful adventures of JoJo's Bizarre Adventure: Battle Tendency. One of my favorite things about this song is the jazzy brass flourishes present throughout. Combine that with a playful rhythm section, this song perfectly captures the character of Joseph Joestar and his fight against the Pillar Men.

Song #4 Title: Epilogue (FFIV)

Year Written: 1991

Artist/Musician/Band/Performers: Nobuo Uematsu

Link: <https://youtu.be/u4b9V8FpxDQ> (Ending Cinematic: https://youtu.be/P321OwFE_oc)

Genre: Video Game Music

Accolades: N/A (Couldn't find any specific examples, but Mr. Uematsu is highly well-known for his work)

Form: N/A (Could be ABCDE? Not quite sure how to describe it)

Texture: Homophonic

Tempo: Wide Range of Tempos - Transitions Between Slow and Fast

Dynamics: Wide Range of Dynamics - Transitions Between Soft and Loud

What To Listen For: Comprising several individual movements, there are many different melodies present in this song. Another key characteristic to pay attention to is the classic instrumental sound of the SNES, especially in the beginning.

Response: Final Fantasy IV is my all-time favorite game— along with Mario and The Legend of Zelda, this series defined my childhood. As such, it is quite a nostalgic and special song for me. Cecil and Rosa's wedding theme never ceases to make me smile. What I love most about this piece is how it evokes a profound sense of accomplishment. After defeating the final boss, this song plays over a montage of all the characters; they study, travel, marry, reunite, and rebuild. All of their lives are at peace. Of course, once it's all over, the ending fanfare exemplifies the player's victory. It's really quite wonderful.

Song #5 Title: Istanbul (Not Constantinople)

Year Written: 1990 (Original - 1953)

Artist/Musician/Band/Performers: They Might Be Giants (Original - Jimmy Kennedy & Nat Simon)

Link: <https://youtu.be/5rHRd6Cl-tQ>

Genre: Alternative/Indie (Novelty Song)

Accolades: Pop Culture References (Couldn't find any specific awards)

Form: ABCDBCDB (I think)

Texture: Polyphonic

Tempo: Moderately Fast

Dynamics: Mostly Soft, Climax Verse Four (Drums)

What To Listen For: Overall, this piece has a really cool tone color with the violins, what I believe is accordion, and the different styles of singing (short doos, long sustained notes, etc.).

About $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way through the song, there is a lovely instrumental break featuring a violin solo.

Response: I hadn't heard this piece until I started watching The Umbrella Academy over the summer with my friends. After COVID sent us all home months ahead of schedule last semester, we had to figure out new ways of having fun. Watching shows on Netflix was one of them and in so doing, I discovered more music to add to my Spotify playlist. I think that's why I really enjoy this song; it reminds me of summer. Any time I'd go for a walk outside, I'd listen to this riveting, entertaining melody and dance a little. It gave me hope in a way, hope that things would get better.