

## Wires, Strings & Other Things

Below you will find a glossary of musical terms which accompanies the film. This glossary should help give context and better understanding to some of the references in the captioning.

### **Glossary of musical and sonic terminology for the hearing impaired, non-musicians and musicians interested in a written perspective on the listening experience.**

- **Sound:** a physical vibration perceived by the ear
- **Note:** an individual sound on a musical instrument. notes can be low and deep, or high and light.
- **Bass Clarinet:** a mostly wooden instrument capable of low notes. The musician blows through one end making a reed vibrate to produce a musical note.
- **Electronic noises:** sounds generated electronically. There are many variations, but some can be described as buzzes, zaps, pops and clicks.
- **Buzz:** the sound a bee makes
- **Pop:** the sound when a balloon bursts
- **Zap:** the sound made by an electrical burst
- **Click:** the sound made when a key turns in a lock
- **Viola:** a stringed instrument that can be bowed or plucked to create notes.
- **Silence:** when no music is being played (although there may be other sound present: coughing, footsteps, etc)
- **Chord:** a group of notes played simultaneously, usually on one instrument, to produce a complex blend of sound
- **Undertone:** a low or subdued accompanying sound
- **Phrase (similar to melody):** a short series of musical notes which form a recognisable pattern
- **Rustle:** the sound that leaves, or other soft materials, make when rubbed gently against one another
- **Buzz:** the sound a bee makes
- **Rhythm:** a repeated pattern of movement or sound
- **Chorus:** a group of instruments or voices singing together
- **Ostinato:** short repeated rhythmic phrases
- **Staccato:** performed with each note sharply detached from the others
- **Legato:** in a smooth, flowing manner, without breaks between notes
- **Glissando:** a continuous slide upwards or downwards between 2 notes (plural **glissandi**)
- **Cacophony:** a harsh, discordant mixture of sounds
- **Arpeggio:** a type of broken chord where notes of the chord are played in a rising or descending order.
- **Rhythmically disjointed:** where parts of a rhythm lack connection or coherence with other parts.
- **Train whistle:** a haunting signal whistle used by steam trains usually in the form of a chord
- **Register:** the range or 'height' of a single note, or a set of notes
- **Snapping:** a sharp impulse of sound made when fingers are pinched together and snapped apart.

- **Unison:** when two instruments play the same thing.
- **Beat drop:** a point in dance music when a sudden change in rhythm occurs
- **Polyrhythm:** when two or more seemingly unrelated rhythms are played simultaneously.
- **Atonal:** where the notes in a phrase don't seem to have any clear relationship, and sound for the most part random.
- **Tremolo:** the rapid repetition of one note
- **Harmonics:** constituent elements of a note isolated through extended technique on a musical instrument: with a viola, lightly touching the string at a certain point, with the clarinet by embouchure.
- **Embouchure:** the use of the lip and mouth muscles to affect the sound of a woodwind or brass instrument.
- **Forte:** referring to the volume of the note being 'strong', in other words, loud
- **Whale song:** sounds created by whales, often quite high pitched glissandi, both up and down, that can sound like a mother cooing to her baby.
- **Discordant:** where notes are deliberately unrelated in a melody, to give a feeling of tension.