

A Decade Through Music

An Original Composition for Piano



2010



2011



2012



2013



2014



2015



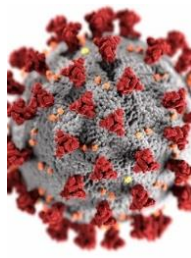
2016



2017



2018



2019

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1 | Summary

“A Decade Through Music” is an original piano composition that aims to communicate selected worldwide events through music. Unique, personally composed musical themes represent certain events from 2010 to the end of 2019. The themes are combined to create a twelve-minute piano piece which was written on the programme MuseScore©¹. The sheet music can be viewed as a PDF² and the composition can be listened to on YouTube³.

¹ MuseScore©. In: <https://musescore.org/en/> / 02.12.2020.

² See P. 32

³ QR Code can be found on P. 44

2 | Foreword

“Art and Life are not two separate things.”

-Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1847⁴

I cannot remember a time when music was not part of our home. My Grandmother was a music teacher, my mother grew up playing the piano and flute and my sister has a passion for ballet. Growing up, I was always surrounded by music, pop or classical. We would often go to pop concerts, ballet performances or theatre productions. I had the honour of singing with Beyoncé at the Hallenstadion on my tenth birthday during her 2013 world tour. I am unable to pinpoint the time when I fell in love with music, it has just always been there.

Global stories were also brought home and discussed around the dinner table. My father travelled extensively on business, and this gave me insights into different cultures. My intrigue for the world was widened when I moved to Zürich from the North of England in 2011, aged eight. This was when I became interested in life and cultures outside my home country and when my ties between England and Switzerland were made.

I began playing the piano in 2010, aged seven. Since then, never has a day gone by when I have not connected with music. Whether it be the melodies of pop through headphones on my way to school, my piano practice or my sister's classical ballet music. As I have grown older, I have learned that music not only connects us, but it is also a form of expression. The composition I have created is a musical narrative of events that have taken place around the world in the last ten years, connecting life and art.

I would like to give thanks to my Mother and Grandmother for sharing their passion and love of music. Without them, I may not have had the opportunity to experience the many varieties of music as a form of artistic expression. I also thank Beat Dähler, my music teacher at Kantonsschule Enge, for his teaching throughout my four years at the school and specifically his support during my Matura paper. Together they have integrated music into my own life.

⁴ Wikipedia. Felix Mendelssohn. In: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felix_Mendelssohn. / 09.12.2020.
Classic FM. Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy. In: <https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/latest/meaning-of-life-great-composers/mendelssohn/>. / 09.12.2020.

3 | Introduction

“A Decade Through Music” is an acoustic composition constructed in the form of a rondo. In a rondo, a repeated theme, similar to a chorus, alternates with contrasting sections which act like verses. In my composition the verses represent a year in the decade with the chosen events being represented by specific musical themes. These events may be environmental, political or tragic. The musical theme could also represent the rise of a social movement. The bias of media may report these issues as negative. However, in the midst of disasters or tragic events, compassion, care and gratitude as well as the beauty of nature and the resilience of life, remain. For example, the hope given by the rescues of the 2011 tsunami in Japan⁵. The chorus of this rondo aims to communicate the consistent positives of life that are not always appreciated as much as they could be while celebrating the New Year.

This composition invites the listener to reflect on these past events, offering a deeper emotional remembrance. It aims to tell the stories, but also lets the stories be felt and responded to at a deeper level than just reading facts. Looking back and remembering events allows us to respond to the incidents in a more heartfelt way. Perhaps we might now see them differently. Just as I, in 2020, look back on the happenings of 2010 with the eyes of a young adult, rather than a child.

⁵ Japan Earthquake & Tsunami of 2011. Live Science. In: <https://www.livescience.com/39110-japan-2011-earthquake-tsunami-facts.html>. / 23.10.2020.

4.1 | Process – Information

With a large array of events, which ones should I include in my composition? The idea was to include any occurrence that caused an impact on the world, focusing on events that occupied the headlines worldwide for an extended period of time. This information was gathered from the web and my personal newspaper collection that I started in December 2014, aged eleven. I began this newspaper collection as I had an interest in events that were shaping the world we live in and a desire for them to be remembered.



Figure 1: Personal newspaper collection, Charlie Hebdo Paris attacks 2015 (left) and Manchester Arena Bombing, 2018 (right).

Originally, I had selected too many headline events to include in my composition and therefore needed to reduce the quantity. During this process I came to understand that the definition of a tragedy differs from person to person depending on one's personal experiences, background and outlook. I find I am more affected by destruction in my homeland or in situations I relate to because of my age. For example, the Manchester Arena terrorist attack⁶ that deliberately targeted teenage girls in 2017, was in my home city. Had I not moved to Switzerland; I could have been there. Therefore, I streamlined my chosen events, leaving out others, despite them sometimes also being tragic. This left me neglecting certain events, for example natural disasters like the 2018 California forest fires⁷ that destroyed areas in Northern California and Southern Oregon or the earthquake that struck on the border of Iran and Iraq on 12th November 2017⁸. Devastating though they were, certain types of disasters did not touch me as deeply as they do reoccur.

⁶ Manchester Arena bombing. Personal Collection P. 87. 20 Minuten. 24.05.2017.

⁷ CAL Fire. In: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2018/>. / 23.10.2020.

⁸ CNN. In: <https://edition.cnn.com/2017/11/12/middleeast/iraq-earthquake/index.html>. / 23.10.2020.

4.2 | Process – Composition

“In music, you are basically having a conversation.”

Hans Zimmer 2019⁹

As I had no composition experience, I started gathering inspiration from famous composers to inspire my own piece. Johann Sebastian Bach’s inventions¹⁰ were an inspiration for the ‘chorus’ (Appendix, Theme 11) and Airplanes by B.o.B. featuring Hayley Williams¹¹ was sampled as the aeroplane theme (Appendix, Theme 7). When composing I was motivated by the quote from film score composer Hans Zimmer of viewing music as “a conversation”. A considerable amount of time during my summer holidays was spent experimenting at the piano. Sometimes I felt I was getting nowhere and not progressing, other times everything just fell into place. I looked at major keys and relative minors. I used chords and their progressions to represent events involving hundreds of people, for example the 2015 Mecca stampede¹² (Sheet music, bars 160-165). Dynamics were used to add suspense, and rests represented shock and devastation after a tragedy. Inserting emotional and melodic minor sections helped represent tragedies such as the migrant crisis of 2015¹³ (SM,¹⁴ bars 176-191). Although I experimented with variations of timing, I decided to keep a steady tempo, except for certain occasions. Examples being when borrowed hit songs were incorporated and when the rhythm of runners’ feet during the 2013 Boston marathon bombing was being represented (SM, bars 97-100).

⁹ Youtube. Hans Zimmer Teaches Film Scoring. In: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCX1Ze3OcKo>. / 23.10.2020.

¹⁰ Johann Sebastian Bach. Inventions and Sinfonias. BWV 772-801.

¹¹ Youtube. B.o.B – Airplanes feat. Hayley Williams. In: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kn6-c223DUU>. / 23.10.2020.

¹² BBC News. Hajj Stampede. In: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-34346449>. / 23.10.2020.

¹³ BBC News. In: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35158769>. / 23.10.2020.

¹⁴ Sheet music (SM)

This process of trial and error finally left me with a theme which corresponded to each event I wished to include. The build-up of the tsunami wave is represented by quavers growing louder and louder and the pitch getting higher and higher (SM, 2011, bars 42-53). Gunshots were depicted by the lowest major octave. The rise of the *#MeToo* movement in 2017 (SM, bars 260-266) and 2018¹⁵ (SM, bars 306-312) is represented by a 'single voice' that continues to be joined by others doing the same, creating a choral sound.

The recurrence of events is represented by repetition of the themes and variations in their length. Therefore, some themes can be heard in one year, and are then featured in another, perhaps slightly varied. For example, the shooting theme can be heard to represent the attack in Norway in 2011¹⁶ (SM, bars 55-57) and in 2017 to represent the attack on the al-Rawda mosque in Sinai, Egypt¹⁷ (SM, bar 267). The length of each year depends on how many events were included and for this reason some years are longer than others. As there were numerous terrorist attacks across Europe in 2017¹⁸, this 'verse' of the composition is dominated by car ramming (Appendix, Theme 9) and explosion themes (Appendix, Theme 6). The protest theme in 2019 is eight bars long to show the estimated seven million people that took part in the school strikes for climate change that year¹⁹ (SM, bars 347-355).

¹⁵ The Guardian. *#MeToo*. In: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/20/women-worldwide-use-hashtag-metoo-against-sexual-harassment>. / 23.10.2020.

¹⁶ Wikipedia. 2011 Norway Attacks. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Norway_attacks. / 23.10.2020.

¹⁷ History. Terrorist attack in Sinai, Egypt. In: <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/terrorist-attack-sinai-mosque-egypt>. / 23.10.2020.

¹⁸ Personal collection. P. 86-92. 20 Minuten and Blick Newspaper.

¹⁹ Wikipedia. School strike for climate. In: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/School_strike_for_climate. / 25.10.2020.

In my composition, the 'chorus' is played between each year, following the rules of the rondo form. This section begins with Big Ben chiming to mark the New Year but also to create a personal link to my home country, England. It then develops into an interchanging of the motif between the left and right hand, which was inspired by the composition of the JS Bach Inventions. This part intends to give the listener the impression of New Year celebrations and joy between the tragedies that may have occurred that year (Appendix, Theme 11). The 'chorus' remains the same throughout the seven years as it intends to communicate the same feelings. 2019 is an exception (SM, bars 357-368), as the end of this year marked the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic which has greatly impacted our lives as we entered the following decade. Therefore, the final 'chorus' is repeatedly interrupted by the repetition of the epidemic theme (Appendix, Theme 8).

The piano has its limitations. Representing certain events with one single instrument was difficult as I did not have the possibilities an orchestra would give. Similarly, not having the resources Foley artists have when creating sound effects made recreating dissonant sounds like bombs or a car ramming challenging. I found ways to communicate specific events to overcome these restrictions. For example, the opening of the Burj Khalifa being represented by alternating C major octaves and a D, the second note in the C major scale to communicate its height at 828m high (SM, 2010, bars 1-3). Experimenting with the full seven octaves of the piano gave me many options. Deep notes to represent gunfire (Appendix, Theme 3) and explosions (Appendix, Theme 6), whereas high-pitched notes were used for the falling theme (Appendix, Theme 5).

5 | Contents²⁰

The following pages list which worldwide events were included in each year of the composition. The events are listed in the order they are played in the piece, not chronologically. A detailed explanation of these events and their location in the composition is also attached. For reoccurring events, a connection is made to the appendix (page 24) where the composition of the corresponding musical theme is explained. The musical representation of the events that only occurred once is explained in this section. Any musical terms are defined and explained in the glossary (page 31). The layout of this section is explained below.

Layout:

Year

1. Date of event

Event summary followed by more detailed explanation of event.

Bars (where the event can be found in the sheet music, p.33-44).

Location of the reoccurring musical themes in the appendix.

Explanation of musical representation.

²⁰ To keep this section clear, the sources for pages 10-22 are shown on page 45-48.

2010

1. 4th January

Opening of the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, the tallest building in the world at 828m.

Bars 1-3

Quaver octave intervals alternating with a D, the second note of the C-major scale.

This creates an 82828 pattern which corresponds to the height of the Burj Khalifa.

2. 5th August

33 miners are trapped in a cave in Chile until their rescue on October 13th.

Bars 6-11 (trapped) and 14-18 (rescue)

Appendix, Theme 1, Trapped.

The theme is retrograded (played backwards) to represent their rescue.

3. 29th November

Hit song 'Rolling in the Deep' by Adele.

Bars 12-14

2011

1. 31st October

World population reaches seven billion.

Bars 31-32

Represented by the first seven notes of the C-major scale.

2. 27th December 2010 - December 2011

Arab Spring. A series of anti-government protests that spread across much of the Arab world as a response to the oppressive regimes and low living standards.

Bars 36-41

Appendix, Theme 2, Protest.

The protest theme is combined with the double harmonic scale to give the theme a Middle Eastern flavour.

3. 5th January – 11th February

Egyptian Revolution. Protestors fought against police brutality, lack of political freedom, corruption, high unemployment, low wages and food-price inflation. They fought for freedom of speech and civil liberty and demanded the overthrow of the Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak.

Bars 36-41

Appendix, Theme 2, Protest.

The protest theme is combined with the double harmonic scale to give the theme a Middle Eastern flavour.

4. 11th March

Tohoku, Japan tsunami that killed 15,897 people. The tsunami waves were triggered by the fourth most powerful earthquake in the world at 9.0Mw with an epicentre approximately 70 kilometres east of the Oshika Peninsula.

Bars 42-53

Quavers are played in a wave-like pattern getting higher and higher and louder and louder giving the impression of a growing tsunami wave.

5. 2nd May

The death of Osama Bin Laden. He was the founder of the organization Al-Qaeda and was killed in Afghanistan by United States Navy SEALs in a CIA-led operation.

Bar 54

A chord consisting of D E A D to signify Bin Laden's death.

6. 22nd July

Two uncoordinated lone wolf attacks in Norway. Number one – a bombing targeting the executive government quarter with far-right extremism as a motive. The second – a shooting at a Workers' Youth League (AUF) summer camp, in which 77 people were killed.

Bars 55-57

Appendix, Theme 3, Shooting.

2012

1. 14th October

Felix Baumgartner becomes the first person to break the sound barrier without vehicle power when he jumped to Earth from the Stratosphere.

Bars 69-71

Appendix, Theme 5, Falling.

The theme ends in demisemiquavers to represent the sonic boom.

2. 4th March

Re-election of Vladimir Putin as Russian president.

Bars 73-80

Appendix, Theme 4, Election.

3. 6th November

Re-election of Barack Obama as the president of the United States of America.

Bars 73-80

Appendix, Theme 4, Election.

2013

1. 27th January

Kiss nightclub fire in Santa Maria, Brazil that killed 245 and is considered the deadliest fire of the decade. It was ignited through illegal pyrotechnics (chemical reactions used to make heat, light, gas or sound) that set fire to acoustic foam.

Bars 92-96

To represent the whistling and crackling a fire makes, I used semibreves held by right hand accompanied by staccato grace notes in the left hand.

2. 15th April

Bombing at the Boston marathon. This attack, which killed three and injured roughly 264 people, was unconnected to any outside terrorist group. One perpetrator stated the attack was motivated by the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Bars 97-100

Appendix, Theme 6, Explosion.

The 23,181 runners that participated in the marathon are represented by chords played at 70bpm, a running pace.

3. 24th April

Collapse of the Dhaka garment factory in Bangladesh killing over 1,100 people. It is considered the deadliest structural failure accident in modern human history.

Bars 101-102

Appendix, Theme 5, Falling.

4. June 2013

Edward Snowden reveals details of classified United States government surveillance programmes by the NSA.

Bars 103-106

Mirrored variation of the trapped theme (Appendix, Theme 1) to represent the information being leaked accompanied by quavers in the left hand building up panic. An acceleration of the quavers represents Snowden fleeing to Russia.

5. 21st November

Hit song 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams, soundtrack of the film *Despicable Me 2*.

Bars 107-112

2014

1. Throughout the whole year

44,000 people die in terrorist attacks across the world, making it the year with the highest death toll of the decade.

Bars 124-141

A unique, emotional theme in the right hand intending to give the listener a moment to commemorate those who were murdered by terrorists.

2. Throughout the whole year

Rise of Islamic State. ISIS (or ISIL) announces establishment of a *caliphate* – an Islamic state, after it had already rapidly advanced across Iraq and Syria.

Bars 136-141

Appendix, Theme 3, Shooting.

The right hand continues with the sad theme (point 1.) while the left hand plays the shooting theme (Appendix, Theme 3, Shooting). The irregular shots increase from bar to bar to demonstrate the rise of the group.

3. 8th April

Disappearance of Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. Communication with air traffic control was last made 38 minutes into the flight before the aircraft was lost from ATC radar screens and disappeared with all twelve crew members and 277 passengers. Debris believed to be from the aeroplane has been found, though the full aircraft remains unlocated (as of December 2020).

Bars 142-146

Appendix, Theme 7, Aeroplane.

The theme ends with an unexpected fermata to represent the sudden disappearance of the aircraft.

2015

1. 25th October

China releases their one-child policy. It was implemented in 1980 attempting to reduce the growth rate of their population by limiting families to one child each.

Bars 158-160

Single staccato C develop into chords representing the permission to have more than one child.

2. 24th September

Hundreds of pilgrims are killed in a stampede in Mina, Mecca. It is considered the deadliest Hajj (annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca) disaster in history.

Bars 160-165

I used the double harmonic scale combined with staccato and accented crotchets to create a stamping rhythm.

3. 24th March

Crash of Germanwings flight 9525 from Barcelona to Düsseldorf when the pilot deliberately flew the plane into the French Alps (north-west of Nice). This incident killed all 150 people on board and implemented the “rule of two” requirement. This means that *if one of the two pilots leaves the cockpit at any time, their place must be temporarily filled with another crew member.*²¹

Bars 166-169

Appendix, Theme 7, Aeroplane.

The theme ends with a dissonant chord to represent the crash of the aircraft.

²¹ The Local. 28.04.2017. <https://www.thelocal.de/20170428/german-airlines-to-overturn-two-person-cockpit-rule-two-years-after-germanwings-crash>. / 05.11.2020.

4. April 2015 – November 2016

Zika virus epidemic in South America. The virus is transmitted by mosquitos and has mild symptoms, but it can cause birth defects in pregnant women. In 2015 and 2016 there were 174,667 confirmed cases and a further 528,157 suspected cases worldwide.

Bars 170-171

Appendix, Figure 8, Epidemic.

Three piercing A trills represent the buzzing of a mosquito.

5. 7th January

Al-Qaeda attack on the French newspaper Charlie Hebdo in Paris where twelve people were killed, among them eight journalists from the newspaper. The controversial depiction and jokes about Islamic leaders were considered to be the principal motives for the attack.

Bar 172

Appendix, Figure 3, Shooting.

6. 14th November

November Paris attacks when three coordinated terrorist attacks were conducted by ISIS. Bombs exploded during a football match and at concert. Cafés and restaurants were targets for mass shootings and another suicide bombing. ISIS later stated it was retaliation for the French airstrikes on ISIS targets in Syria and Iraq that attempted to contain the expansion of ISIS. 137 people died including the seven perpetrators.

Bars 173-175

Appendix, Theme 6, Explosion.

7. **The peak of the European migrant crisis.** More than one million people fled armed conflict and arrived from across the Mediterranean Sea or through South-east Europe (mainly arriving in Italy and Greece). 46.7% were Syrian and 20.9% Afghan fleeing the ongoing Syrian and Afghan civil wars and 9.4% were escaping from the current Iraqi conflict. In 2015 EU states received 1,255,640 asylum applications, more than twice as many as in 2014.

Bars 176-191

An emotional theme flowing up and down represents waves in the ocean and boats arriving at shore.

8. 23rd October

Hit song 'Hello' by Adele that topped charts in a record breaking 36 countries and is one of the best-selling digital singles of all-time.

Bars 191-194

2016

1. 12th January

Hit song 'Despacito' by Luis Fonsi featuring Daddy Yankee. It is referred to as one of the most successful Spanish-language songs in history. The music video was the first video to reach three, four, five, six and seven billion views on YouTube and was the most viewed YouTube video of the decade.

Bars 206-208

2. April 2015 – November 2016

Zika virus epidemic in South America (See 2015, point 4.)

Bars 209-210

Appendix, Figure 8, Epidemic.

Three piercing A trills represent the buzzing of a mosquito.

3. 8th November

Donald Trump is elected president of the United States of America.

Bars 212-215

Appendix, Figure 4, Election.

4. 23rd June

The United Kingdom votes to leave the European Union.

Bars 216-224

The British National Anthem 'God save the Queen' in G major end in a climbing G minor scale to represent their decision to leave the EU.

5. Throughout the whole year

Opioid overdoses kill more than 42,000 people in the United States, more than any previous year on record.

Bars 225-237

A theme representing the flow of daily life which is repeatedly interrupted by dissonant and consonant second and third interval chords to represent the addiction to opioids that disrupts daily life.

6. 14th July

Cargo truck deliberately driven into crowds of people on Promenade des Anglais, Nice France. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack which killed 86 people who were celebrating Bastille Day.

Bars 237-241

Appendix, Figure 9, Vehicle ramming.

7. 22nd March

Three coordinated suicide bombings in Brussels conducted by ISIS. One bomb exploded at Maalbeek metro station and another two at Brussels Airport. The attack is considered the deadliest terrorist attack in Belgian history.

Bars 242-244

Appendix, Figure 6, Explosion.

2017

1. 22nd March

Westminster car ramming terrorist attack by ISIS outside the Place of Westminster, London, England. Nearly 50 people were injured and six died.

Bars 256-259

Appendix, Figure 9, Vehicle ramming.

2. October 2017

The **#MeToo movement** begins to spread as a hashtag. It is a social movement where people published allegations of sex crimes committed by powerful men in an attempt to fight sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Actress Alyssa Milano encouraged people to share the phrase to communicate the issue during accusations against Harvey Weinstein.

Bars 260-266

Appendix, Theme 10, #MeToo.

3. 24th November

Attack on al-Rawda mosque, Sinai, Egypt killing roughly 300 people. This was an attack against Sufi Muslims (*a form of Islamic mysticism that emphasizes introspection and spiritual closeness with God²²*).

Bar 267

Appendix, Figure 3, Shooting.

4. 17th October

Van driven into pedestrians on La Rambla, Barcelona, killing 13. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack which was committed in response to the anti-ISIS coalition (joint task force against ISIS of which Spain is a member.)

Bars 268-269

Appendix, Figure 9, Vehicle ramming.

²² New York Times. 24.11.2017. Megan Specia. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/24/world/middleeast/sufi-muslim-explainer.html>. / 08.11.2020.

5. 6th January

Hit song 'Shape of You' by Ed Sheeran. It was the most streamed song of the decade on Spotify, with 2.4 billion streams by December 2019.

Bars 270-273

6. 31st October

Truck driven into cyclists and runners on Hudson River Park bike path in New York, killing eight. This was an attack of Islamist terrorism inspired by ISIS.

Bars 274-275

Appendix, Figure 9, Vehicle ramming.

7. 22nd May

Manchester Arena bombing after Ariana Grande's Dangerous Woman concert that killed 23 people. It was the deadliest suicide bombing of the decade in the UK and was conducted by ISIS.

Bars 276-277

Appendix, Theme 6, Explosion.

8. 3rd June

Terrorist attack on London Bridge in London, England which was a vehicle ramming attack followed by a stabbing. Eleven people were killed and 48 injured in the Islamist extremism attack by ISIS.

Bars 277-280

Appendix, Figure 9, Vehicle ramming.

2018

1. April-June 2018

Implementation of the **Trump administration's family separation policy** to stop illegal immigration. Authorities separated children from their families or guardians with whom they had entered the USA.

Bars 292-294

Scale where left- and right-hand separate depicting the families being separated.

2. October 2018

Beginning of the **Yellow vests movement in France** to fight for economic justice. The protests began with rising fuel prices and a higher cost of living, claiming that the government's tax reforms were affecting the middle and working classes.

Bars 295-305

Appendix, Theme 2, Protest.

3. Restatement of **#MeToo** theme as the movement continued to grow in 2018.

Bars 306-312

Appendix, Theme 10, *#MeToo*.

4. 23rd June

A twelve-boy soccer team were trapped inside the Tham Luang Nang Non cave after entering after football practice in Chiang Rai Province, Thailand. The whole team was rescued between 8th and 10th July.

Bars 312-317 (trapped), 318-323 (rescue)

Appendix, Theme 1, Trapped.

2019

1. 15th April

The Notre-Dame de Paris burns. The structure fire caused the building's spire to collapse, the destruction of its roof and severe damage to its upper walls.

Bars 335-340

Appendix, Theme 5, Trapped.

2. Throughout the whole year

Rise of climate change awareness resulting in climate strikes through Great Thunberg. She originally founded the school strike for climate change in November 2018. Strikes inspired by her movement began to be organised all over the world. A series of 4,500 strikes took place in the Global Week for Future between 20th and 27th September across over 150 countries. Likely the largest climate strike in world history was on 20th September when four million protesters gathered worldwide.

Bars 340-355

Appendix, Figure 2, Protest.

The beginning is a quaver motif alternating between left- and right-hand. The left-hand climbs to represent the rise in temperature before the right-hand falls representing the melting of glaciers and ice caps. The second part consists of a theme in the right-hand using quavers and intervals to represent the losses climate change causes.

3. December 2019

First identification of SARS-CoV-2 or Covid-19 in Wuhan, Hubei, China.

Bar 356

Appendix, Figure 8, Epidemic.

6 | Conclusion

“A Decade Through Music” was really born when I started a collection of newspaper cuttings at the age of eleven. Seven years later, I have turned the headlines reported in them into a piano composition.

My aim was to connect art and life by musically communicating selected reported world events from January 2010 to December 2019. I have achieved this through composing a piece for piano in rondo form. The music reflects worldwide acts of terrorism; political protests and activity; natural environmental disasters, summarising certain events that have shaped and impacted human life in the last decade. The music demonstrates this through exploring the whole range of sound the piano offers, giving a sense of the unexpected, which is the essence of disaster and human tragedy. The repeating rondo ‘chorus’ succeeds in bringing a quiet stability and unity to the whole, with the chimes of Big Ben, in Westminster, London, celebrating the New Year.

Composing was a new experience for me, and I was challenged by the need for patience and perseverance. I learnt that ‘less is more’ and repeatedly deleted and reshaped my work. Through the discipline of hours spent at the piano, my listening became more perceptive and I began to recognise when harmony and discord created a fitting representation of an event. This meant I was connecting the events through art, remembering them as a unique musical theme rather than as a disaster.

Perhaps now I am motivated to compose a second piece depicting the year 2020 or the current decade as the impact of Covid-19 pandemic continues to reshape our lives. Art and life are connected, so as life continues, artistic expression is able to augment it through music.

7 | Appendix – Themes

Chorus

This section of the piece begins with Big Ben chiming in the left hand (bars 1-5). A rhythmic motive is then introduced in the right-hand (bar 6) which continues with a *Fortspinnung* (development of the musical motif into an entire musical structure²³). This includes the original notes from the Big Ben motif but creates a more upbeat melody to celebrate the New Year. The motif is played alternating between the right and left hand inspired by the Bach inventios. The first four bars are in C major before the theme continues into a B^b Dorian mode.



Figure 2. Chorus.

²³ Wikipedia. Fortspinnung. In: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fortspinnung>. / 09.11.2020.

Theme 1 | Trapped

The quavers in the right-hand alternate between chords and a single note. These chords begin with an octave and their intervals gradually decrease until the interval is only a third to communicate the feeling of claustrophobia when trapped in a tight space.



Figure 3. Trapped Theme (from 2010).

Theme 2 | Protest

The masses of people protesting are represented by the large chords. A marching rhythm is created by the alternation between crotchets and quavers in the right hand accompanied by the descending crotchets in the left hand.

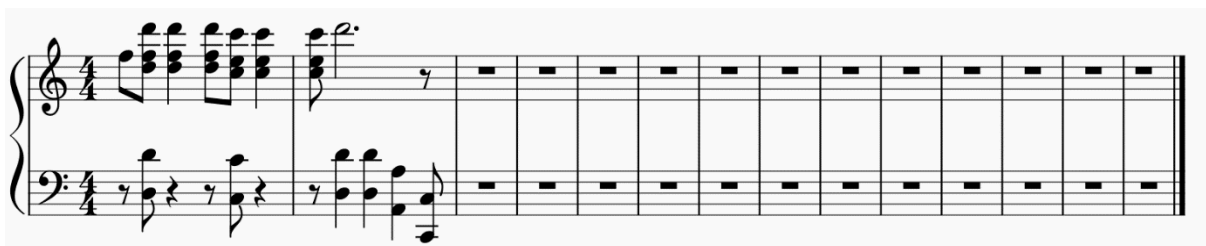


Figure 4. Protest Theme (from 2018).

Theme 3 | Shooting

Gunshots are represented by the C1 – C2 octave. Rhythmic variations of this chord are played throughout the piece to represent the inconsistency of gunshots from a machine gun during a terrorist attack.

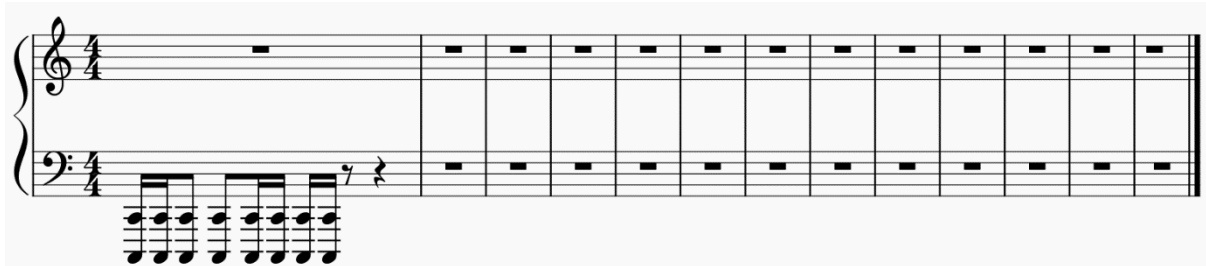


Figure 5. Shooting theme (from 2011).

Theme 4 | Election

This theme is composed from the chromatic scale to represent the tedious, long and repetitive process of elections. The theme has one party in the left hand and another in the right which are competing against each other. Both hands play the same thing but in a slightly different way. Just as the political parties fight for the same thing but have different goals they want to achieve and use different methods to achieve them.



Figure 6. Election Theme (from 2012).

Theme 5 | Falling

A simple composition using quavers descending from a higher into a lower pitch.

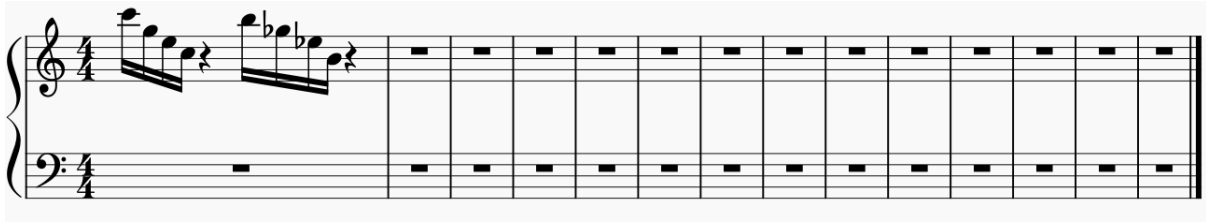


Figure 7. Falling theme (from 2012).

Theme 6 | Explosion

An explosion is represented by a very low pitched, raucous, loud chord (DFA^bA). The chord is played as two semiquavers to represent an explosion happening and a minim indicating its lasting effects.

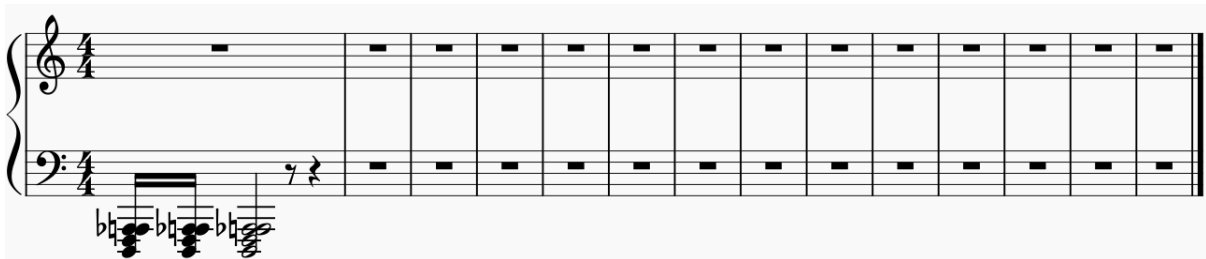


Figure 8. Explosion Theme (from 2016).

Theme 7 | Aeroplane

The aeroplane theme is taken from the song Airplanes by B.o.B. featuring Hayley Williams.²⁴ The ending of each section varies from year to year depending on the event. For example, ending in a fermata when Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 disappeared (2014) or in the explosion chord (Appendix, Theme 6) for the Germanwings flight 9525 crash (2015)



Figure 9. Aeroplane Theme (from 2014).

²⁴ Airplanes. B.o.B. featuring Hayley Williams. 17.06.2010. In: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kn6-c223DUU>. / 27.10.2020.

Theme 8 | Epidemic

This event is represented by a single, shrill and dissonant chord in the left and right hand (RH: C[#]DEA[#], LH: F[#]GAD[#]).

This theme can also be found included in the last repetition of the 'chorus' after 2019. This is to show the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic into the next decade.

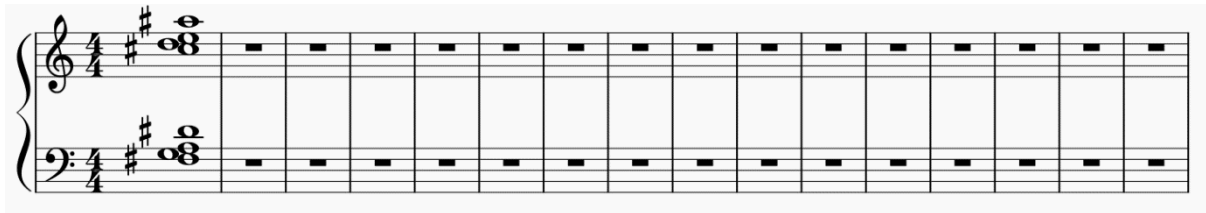


Figure 10. Epidemic Theme (from 2019).

Theme 9 | Vehicle Ramming

This theme begins with four quavers or semiquavers to represent the rolling of car wheels before the screeching of breaking wheels is represented by a shrill chord (BCFF[#]). The same chord at a much lower pitch represents the vehicle crashing.



Figure 11. Vehicle Ramming Theme (from 2017).

Theme 10 | #MeToo

This theme begins with a single ‘voice’ representing the first people to share their sexual abuse stories. Just as more and more people were encouraged to share their accounts, the ‘voice’ becomes accompanied by others doing the same creating a heterophonic melody.



Figure 12. #MeToo Theme (from 2018).

9 | Glossary

Bar: A length of time corresponding to a number of beats. In sheet music a bar is indicated by a vertical line at its beginning and end.

BPM (beats per minute): A measurement of tempo in music that indicates how many beats should be played per 60 seconds.

C1 / C2: The lowest C on the piano is called C1. From there, each C to the right increases by one number until C8, the highest C on the piano, is reached.

Chord: A group of three or more notes played at the same time.

Crotchet: A note held for one count.

Demisemiquaver: Note that is played for a thirty-second of a whole note.

Dissonant: Something that lacks harmony.

Dorian mode: A scale mode which starts on the second note of the scale.

Double harmonic scale: A scale with a North African or Middle Eastern flavour consisting of the steps: half, augmented second, half, whole, half, augmented second, half.

Fermata: A symbol in music indicating that a note should be played longer than its note value would indicate.

Grace notes: Extra notes that are added as embellishment and are not essential to the harmony or melody.

Heterophonic: Simultaneous variation of a musical theme.

Interval: A distance in pitch between any two notes.

LH: Left hand.

Minim: A note held for two counts.

Modes: Alternative scales that start on a different note of the scale (not on the first).

Quaver: A note held for half a count.

Retrograde: An already established musical theme played in the reverse.

RH: Right hand.

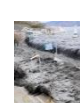
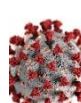
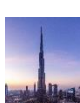
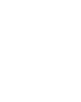
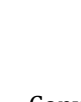
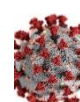
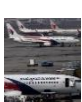
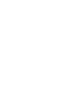
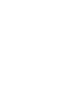
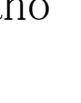
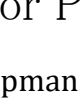
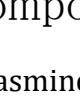
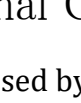
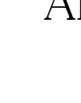
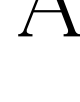
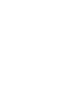
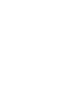
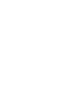
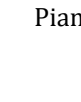
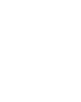
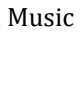
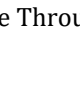
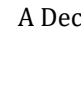
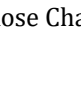
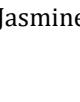
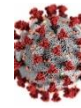
Semibreve: A note held for four counts.

Semiquaver: A note held for a sixteenth of a full count.

Staccato: A note that is short and separated from others when played.

Theme: The musical basis of a composition.

Tonic chord: The first, or root chord of a key or scale.



Jasmine-Rose Chapman

A Decade Through Music

Piano

A Decade Through Music

An Original Composition for Piano

Composed by Jasmine-Rose Chapman

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A Decade Through Music

2010

Jasmine-Rose Chapma

Moderato ($\text{♩} = 60$)

8

f

8

6

11

p

mp

16

f

ral.

Chorus

20

mf

27

2011

31

39

47

53

Chorus

58

65

ral.

2012

69

mp

ff

8

73

mp

mf

78

f

Chorus

81

mp

88

120

pp

2014

124

mp

131

mf

138

142

p

Chorus

147

p

154

mf

2015

158 **Moderato**

mp *f*

164

p *f* *tr* *tr* *tr*

169

ff *mp* *ff* *fff*

174

p *mp*

181

p *mp*

186

p *ral.*

Chorus

195

mf

203

perdendosi

2016

206

f *tr* *tr* *tr* *ff* *mp*

214

mf *f* *mf*

220

p

225

230

234

238

241

Chorus

245

252



2017

256



260



265



268



274



277

mf *ff*

Chorus

281

mf

289

mf

2018

292

mp *f*

297

mp *f* *mp*

303

ff *p*

309

313

319

Chorus

324

332

2019

335

340

mf *mp* *mf*

346

ff

350

353

fff *sfz*

Chorus

357

365

rit. *pp*

9 | YouTube Link

The recording of “A Decade Through Music” can be found on YouTube by scanning the QR Code below.



Link: <https://youtu.be/zbHe0A4jEyI>

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Ich erkläre hiermit, dass ich die vorliegende Arbeit selbständig und ohne Benützung anderer als der angegebenen Quellen oder Hilfsmittel verfasst bzw. gestaltet habe.

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