

Melodies: Creating Rhythmic Climaxes

The way I like to identify rhythmic climaxes is by taking a melody and then first rewriting it with only rhythm. Use this melody from the *Entertainer* by Scott Joplin.



Next, look for identifiers of a rhythmical climax.

Where is the rhythm faster? In this case, where are there more 16th notes?

Where is there non-regular rhythm? In this case, where is there the most syncopation?

If you've answered these questions, you have a good idea of where the climax is. Lastly, just double check your work. Are these elements creating tension leading up to the climax? Is the tension from these elements released after the climax?