

Shakespeare JULIUS CAESAR

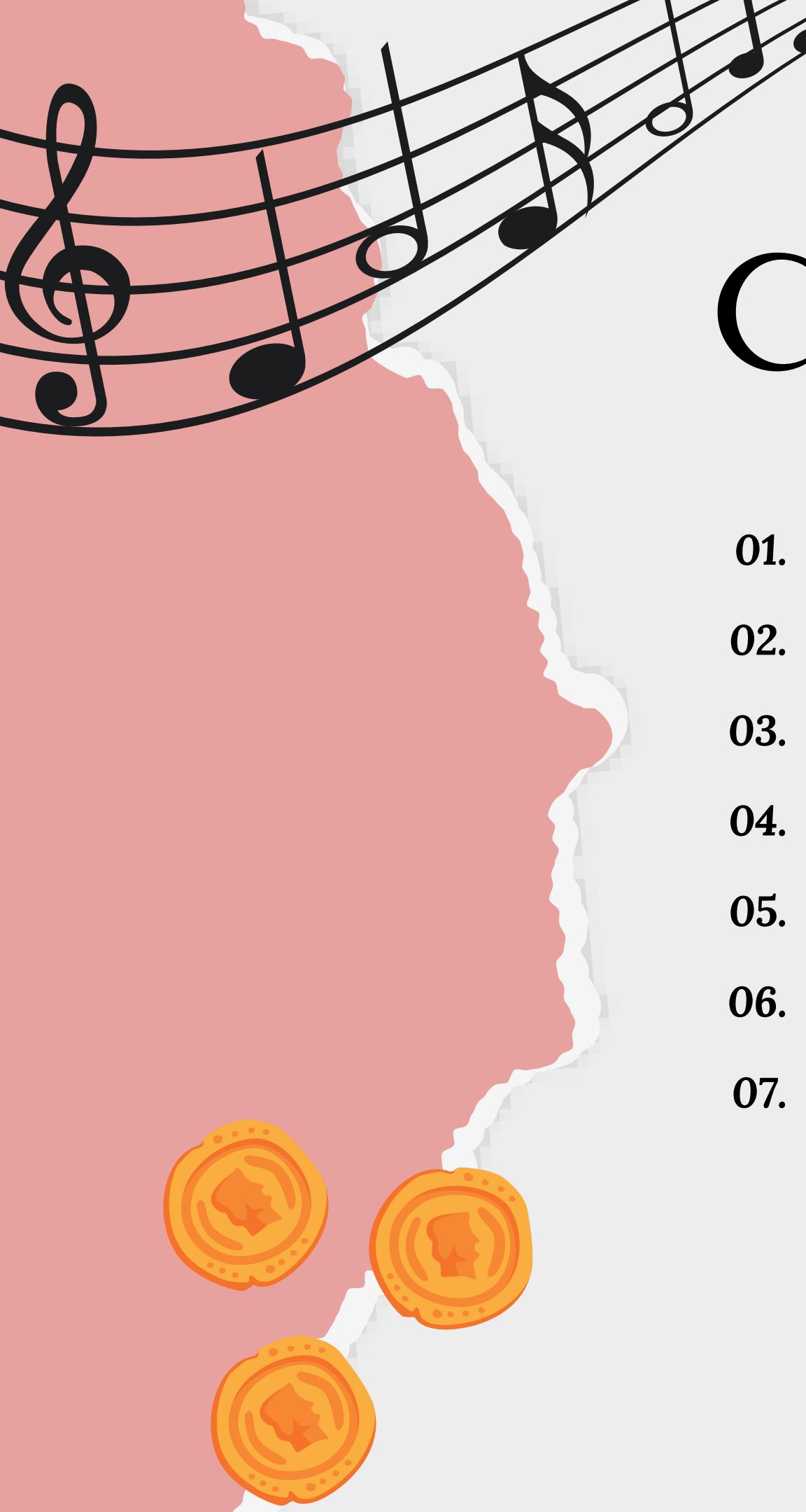
1954

A description of the film music from the movie Julius Caesar!

- Tae Hyeong Kim



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JULIUS CAESAR

1954

Film Description

Film Description

Title of Film: Julius Caesar

Release Year: 1954 (officially 1953)

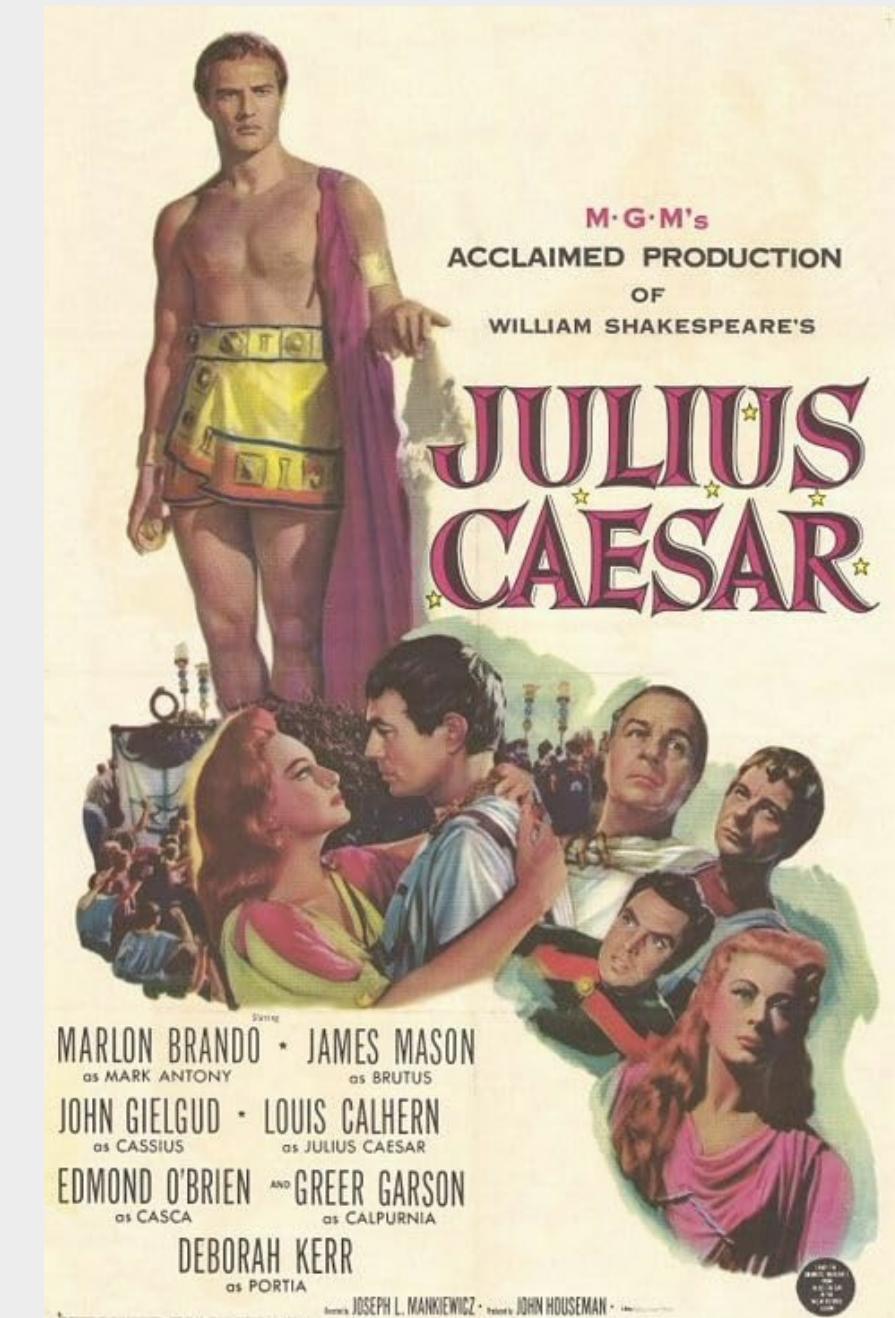
Total duration in minutes: 121 minutes

Film Genre: Tragedy Historical Drama

Primary language: English

Country (of production): United States of America

Director: Joseph L. Mankiewicz



https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0045943/?ref_=tt_mv_close

Film Description

Composer(s): Miklos Rozsa

Other Important Music Contributors:

- Alex Alexander (cello)
- Jakob Gimpel (piano)
- Virginia Majewski (viola)
- Uan Rasey (trumpet)
- Douglas Shearer (recording supervisor)
- Robert Shirley (sound mixer)
- Si Zentner (trombone)
- Eugene Zador (orchestrator)



https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0045943/?ref_=tt_mv_close



Hail, Caesar!

JULIUS CAESAR 1954

Brief plot summary of the film

Brief plot summary of the film

General Overview



The 1954 film (officially 1953) *Julius Caesar* is based on a well known play by William Shakespeare. Brutus and other senators in power in Rome get scared of Caesar's political strength and decide to assassinate Caesar when he is on his way to the theatre of Pompeii. After Caesar's death, his demise triggered widespread turmoil and conflict in Rome. Joseph L. Mankiewicz directs the film, casting Marlon Brando as Mark Anthony, Louis Calhern as Julius Caesar, and other well-known actors. Miklos Rozsa created the soundtrack for the film, ensuring that the music added to the drama and tension of the story.



Hail, Caesar!

JULIUS CAESAR

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Overall nature of the music

Overall nature of the music



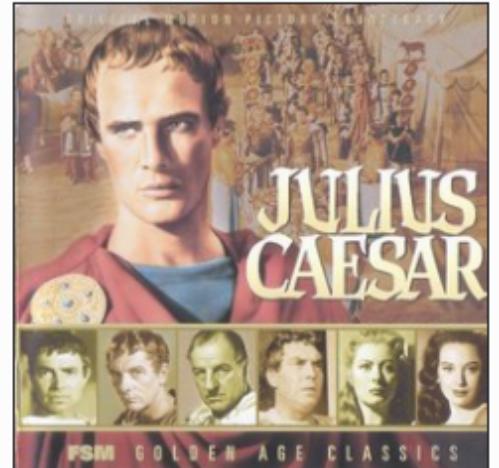
- **Style & Genre**

While *Julius Caesar*'s film music is mostly classical, there is a big focus on dramatic scoring that matches the passion of the Shakespearean tragedy. Composer Miklos Rozsa expertly blends traditional symphony music with specific elements designed to support the story and emotional depth of the film.

- **Orchestration (Instrumentation)**

Rozsa's orchestration for *Julius Caesar* uses a full symphony orchestra with strings, brass, woodwinds, and drums to make a wide range of sounds. There's an instrument for character themes or important moments in the orchestration, like a cello for sad scenes, a trumpet for royal or military scenes, and a piano for moments. There will also be traditional orchestral sections to show how grand and serious Rome is.

Soundtrack Information



Julius Caesar
Film Score Monthly (FSM Vol. 7, No. 9)
Release Date: 2004
Conducted by Miklos Rozsa
Format: CD

Music From
Julius Caesar (1953)

Music By
Miklos Rozsa

Track Listing

Track	Title	Length
1.	Overture	3:04
Get this album or track at:		
amazon.com		
2.	Preludium/Idle Creatures	2:57
3.	Caesar's Procession	2:40
4.	Flavius Arrested/Feast of Lupercal/Flourishes/Caesar and His Train	1:56
5.	Scolding Winds/Brutus' Soliloquy/Brutus Awake	7:11
6.	Brutus' Secret/They Murder Caesar	2:17
7.	Warning of Artemidorus/Ides of March	4:01
8.	Nenia/Black Sentence/Brutus' Camp/Enter Cassius	6:05
9.	Heavy Eyes/Now, Oh Now I Needs Must Part/Gentle Knave/Ghost of Caesar	4:21
10.	Most Noble Brutus/Cassius' Farewell/Cassius' Departure/Prelude to Battle/Battle of Phillipi	3:05
11.	Titinius Enclosed/Caesar Revenged/Caesar, Now Be Still/Rites of Burial/Finale	9:17
12.	Preludium (stereo)/Idle Creatures (alternate)	2:57
13.	Roman Holiday (pre-recording)	0:40

<https://www.soundtrack.net/album/julius-caesar/>

Overall nature of the music



- **Geographic Location**

Julius Caesar takes place in ancient Rome, but the music in the 1953 movie doesn't try to sound like real Roman music. This is mostly because not much is known about the exact nature of music from that time. On the other hand, Miklos Rozsa's music makes the Roman setting more real by using grand and formal orchestral arrangements that bring to mind the majesty and drama of the Roman Empire.

- **Time Period**

The music fits with the play's historical setting by using standard elements that will always sound good and remind us of the past. It was known that Rozsa could add historical depth to his music, which brought the ancient world to life for modern listeners.

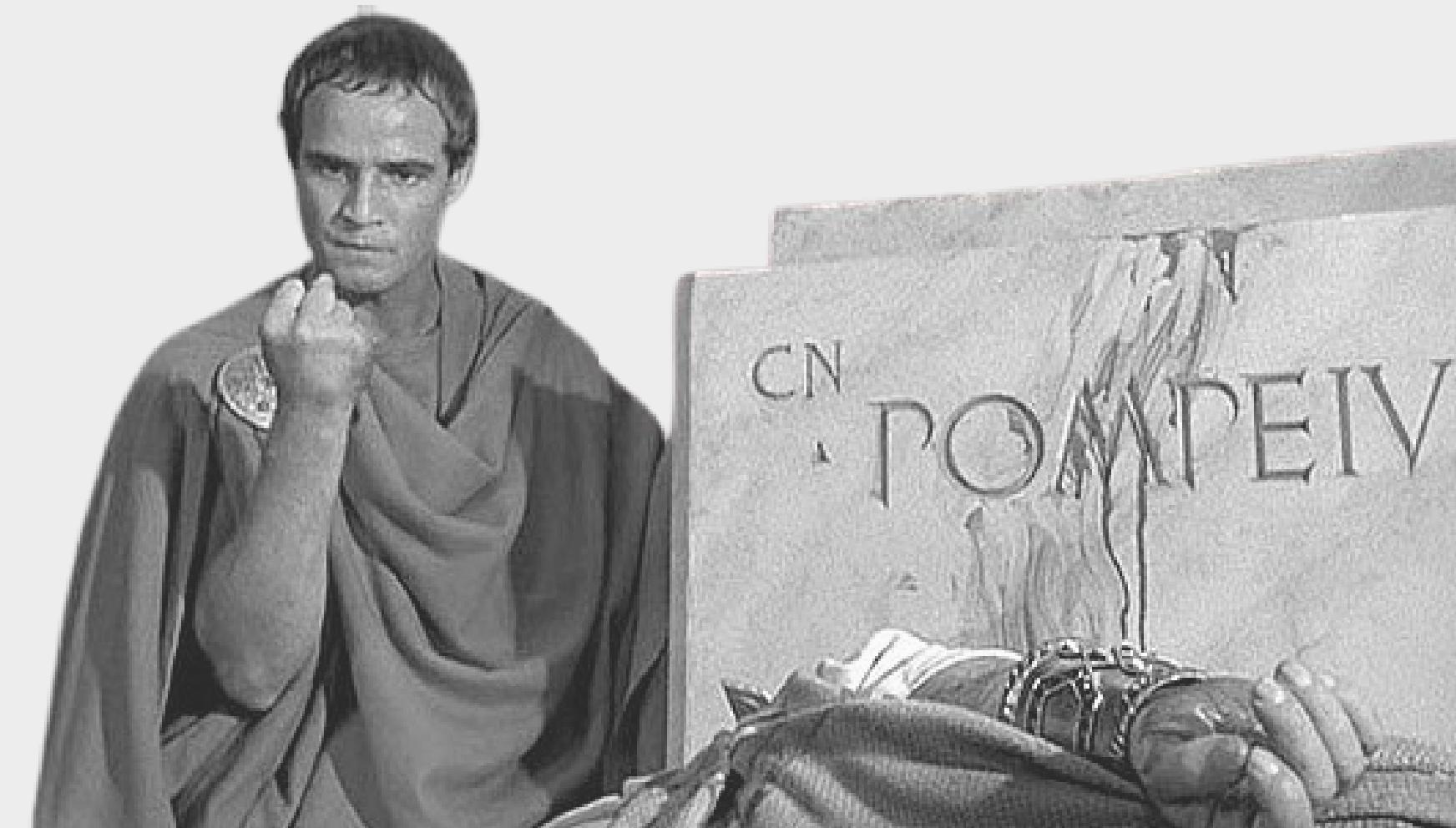
- **Genre**

Drama and tragedy set in the past, the music in this movie adds to the serious themes of power, betrayal, and fate. Through dramatic orchestration, Rozsa's works make important scenes, like Caesar's death and the political chaos that followed, more tense and emotional.

Overall nature of the music

- **Status of the Characters**

The music shows how important and complicated the characters are. Especially Julius Caesar's power and dignity are showcased through pieces with majestic themes, whereas the gloomy or turbulent themes reflect the inner emotions of Brutus and the collaborators. The music adds layers to the Shakespearean dialogue by gently emphasizing the characters' reasons for doing what they are doing and how serious their actions are.



Overall nature of the music

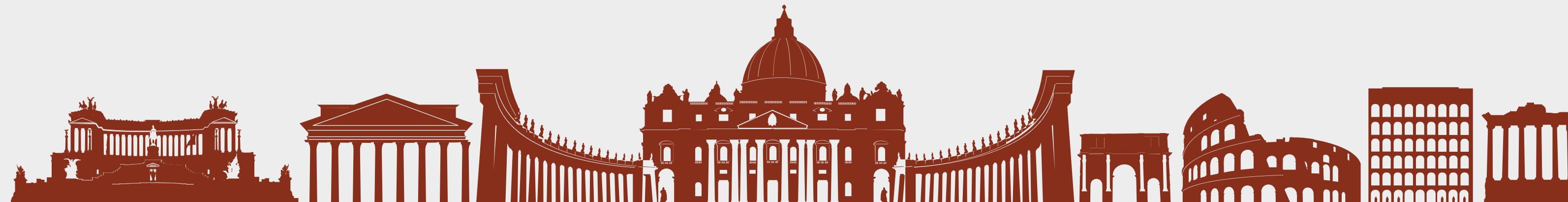
- **Distinctive qualities/attributes of the music**

Sounds classical with a dramatic twist.

The first music, Overture, and the last film music, Finale, are both based on big and subtle classical music. I think Rozsa adds a dramatic touch that makes the story more interesting. He also uses the full range of the orchestra to make me think of old Rome and the complicated political and personal events that happened there.

Connections to history and culture

Even though Rozsa didn't try to copy real Roman music, his film music for *Julius Caesar* does a good job of bringing the movie's old setting to life through its grandeur and formality. The songs give the story a sense of being timeless and important in history, which fits with the epic size of the story and its huge characters and events.



Overall nature of the music

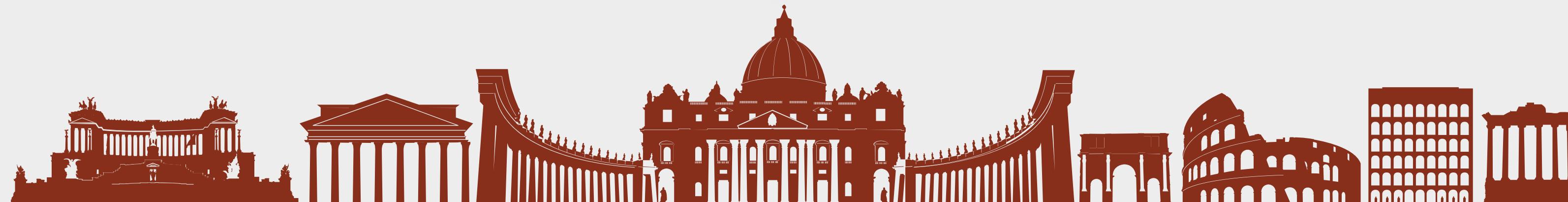
- **Distinctive qualities/attributes of the music**

Development of a theme

The film's music shows how good Rozsa is at writing about themes that change as the movie does. From the lighthearted *Preludium/Idle Creatures* to the more in-depth looks at characters in Brutus' Soliloquy and They Murder Caesar, the music shows how the story is developing and how the characters are thinking. This change in theme makes the movie better by adding a layer of musical storytelling that goes well with the visual and plot parts.

Emotional Depth and Nuance

The film music for Julius Caesar covers a lot of dramatic ground. Tracks like Scolding Winds/Brutus Soliloquy/Brutus Awake and Warning of Artemidorus/Ides of March explore the dread and tension that build up to important events. Nenia/Black Sentence/Brutus' Camp/Enter Cassius and the events leading up to the Battle of Philippi and Rites of Burial show the sadness, tragedy, and aftermath of war. The emotional depth of Rozsa's music makes the audience deeply involved, which increases the effect of the film.





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Music Themes

Music themes

Overture and Preludium/Idle Creatures

- **Musical qualities of the theme**

Grand and thematic, setting the tone for the film.

- **Name and Description**

Introduces the main thematic material (The Essence of Rome) capturing the epic scope of the story.

- **Frequency**

Overture one time. Preludium/Idle Creatures two times

- **Changes or Consistency**

Remains consistent throughout the film

Caesar's Procession

- **Musical qualities of the theme**

Grand with martial elements.

- **Name and Description**

Caesar's Power represents Caesar's authority and the public's adoration or fear.

- **Frequency**

Once

- **Changes or Consistency**

Remains consistent throughout the film

Music themes

Flavius Arrested/Feast of Lupercal/Flourishes/Caesar and His Train

Scolding Winds/Brutus' Soliloquy/Brutus Awake

- **Musical qualities of the theme**

Varied, to match the changing scenes.

- **Name and Description**

Captures the diverse aspects of Roman life and political intrigue.

- **Frequency**

Once

- **Changes or Consistency**

Remains consistent throughout the film

- **Musical qualities of the theme**

Reflective, tense, or introspective.

- **Name and Description**

Brutus' Dilemma highlights Brutus' internal conflict and decision making process.

- **Frequency**

Twice

- **Changes or Consistency**

Remains consistent throughout the film

Music themes

Brutus' Secret/They Murder Caesar

- **Musical qualities of the theme**

Dark and tense.

- **Name and Description**

Musicalizes the plot against Caesar, climaxing in his assassination.

- **Frequency**

Once

- **Changes or Consistency**

Remains consistent throughout the film

Warning of Artemidorus/Ides of March

- **Musical qualities of the theme**

Foreboding, building suspense.

- **Name and Description**

Underscores the tension and impending doom of the Ides of March.

- **Frequency**

Once

- **Changes or Consistency**

Remains consistent throughout the film

Music themes

Nenia/Black Sentence/Brutus' Camp/Enter Cassius

- **Musical qualities of the theme**

Sombre, reflective, possibly with military undertones.

- **Name and Description**

Deals with the consequences of Caesar's death and the formation of alliances.

- **Frequency**

Three times

- **Changes or Consistency**

Remains consistent throughout the film

Heavy Eyes/Now, Oh, Now I Needs Must Part/Gentle Knave/Ghost of Caesar

- **Musical qualities of the theme**

Ethereal, haunting, possibly incorporating softer, eerie textures.

- **Name and Description**

Reflects the haunting legacy of Caesar's death, the ghost's appearance to Brutus, signifying guilt and foreshadowing.

- **Frequency**

Once

- **Changes or Consistency**

Remains consistent throughout the film

Music themes

Most Noble Brutus/Cassius' Farewell/Cassius' Departure/Prelude to Battle/Battle of Phillipi

Titinius Enclosed/Caesar Revenged/Caesar, Now Be Still/Rites of Burial/Finale

- **Musical qualities of the theme**

Heroic, sombre, building to martial vigour.

- **Name and Description**

Captures the complex emotions and the build up to the climactic battle, reflecting on the tragedy of the conflict among former allies.

- **Frequency**

Once

- **Changes or Consistency**

Remains consistent throughout the film

- **Musical qualities of the theme**

Tragic, solemn, concluding with a sense of finality.

- **Name and Description**

Encompasses the outcomes of the battle, the fall of the conspirators, and the funeral rites, concluding the narrative arc.

- **Frequency**

Once

- **Changes or Consistency**

Remains consistent throughout the film

Music themes

Roman Holiday

- **Musical qualities of the theme**

Festive, lighter in tone.

- **Name and Description**

Briefly captures the everyday joys and the cultural backdrop of Rome, away from political turmoil.

- **Frequency**

Once

- **Changes or Consistency**

Remains consistent throughout the film

Black Sentence (short version)

- **Musical qualities of the theme**

This track boils down the sad mood of the longer one, focusing on the main idea of the punishment or evil it stands for.

- **Name and Description**

A concentrated musical representation of the consequences faced by the characters, reflecting the irreversible nature of their actions.

- **Frequency**

Once

- **Changes or Consistency**

Remains consistent throughout the film



Music themes

Black Sentence (intermediate version)

- **Musical qualities of the theme**

Bridge the gap between the short and film versions, exploring the theme of doom with varying degrees of intensity or orchestration.

- **Name and Description**

Expands on the theme of fate and consequence, with a version that might offer a different balance of elements or a developmental bridge in the thematic exploration.

- **Frequency**

Once

- **Changes or Consistency**

Remains consistent throughout the film

Finale (stereo)

- **Musical qualities of the theme**

Grand, conclusive, likely weaving together several thematic strands to provide a sense of closure and resolution.

- **Name and Description**

Concludes the musical journey of the film, revisiting and resolving thematic material to reflect on the narrative's outcomes and their implications.

- **Frequency**

Once

- **Changes or Consistency**

Remains consistent throughout the film



Hail, Caesar!

JULIUS CAESAR¹⁹⁵⁴

Battle of Phillipi

Scene Description

Battle of Phillipi

There are extreme long shots and long shots of the battle of Philippi that show how big it was, as well as close-ups and medium shots of important characters like Brutus, Cassius, Antony, and Octavian that show how they felt and how they were reacting to what was happening.

The dialogue is short and powerful, showing how serious the fight is and how much is at stake for each character.

Clashing swords, marching feet, and battle cries dominate the soundscape. There are short periods of silence before important conversations.



Extreme Long Shot



Medium Shot



Close-up

Film music Description

Orchestration

A full orchestra is used in the film music to match the epic scale of the scene. Brass and percussion are used to drive the action and emphasize how chaotic and intense the fight is. The music can add emotional depth by showing how tragic and brave the characters are.

Theme Used

Battle of Phillipi is a combat theme with themes about Brutus and Cassius, as well as themes about Caesar's loyalty. This would show that the conflict was both a physical battle and a clash of ideas and personal loyalties.



Film music Description

Diegetic or Non-Diegetic

The film music in this scene is not part of the action (non-diegetic). It is there to add to the emotional and thematic weight of the fight without the characters being able to hear it.

Theme Used

The film music in this scene is not part of the action (non-diegetic). It is there to add to the emotional and thematic weight of the fight without the characters being able to hear it.



What is the music conveying

The Underlying Danger of the Situation

The heavy use of brass and percussion in this piece of film music makes the threat and importance of the battle stand out. The film music is very intense, just like war is chaotic and dangerous. Also, it emphasizes the characters' physical and spiritual danger.

The Speaker's Psychological State

The film music can show how important characters like Brutus and Cassius feel by using more reflective music sections that might have strings or a single instrument. These musical moments of introspection show how brave they are, how much they question themselves, and how heavy their choices are.



What is the music conveying

The Impending Relationship Between the Characters

The film music emphasizes how tragic the relationships have become as the fight is the last showdown between two people who used to be friends but are now enemies. Brutus, Cassius, Antony, and Octavian are all mentioned in the score, which creates a complicated tapestry of betrayal, friendship, and loyalty. It emphasizes the dramatic change from political alliance to battlefield opposition.

The Existing Relationship Between the Characters

The film music also uses and builds on well-known themes to show how deep the characters' shared pasts are and how much their current struggle affects everyone. Themes that were once linked to Caesar might show up again, but this time they would be changed to show how his legacy affects the fight and the characters' goals, showing how their relationships with Caesar and with each other continue to have an effect on them.



What is the music conveying

Supporting the Action Through Its Rhythm and Accents

The music's beat and tempo change with the action on screen, using accents to mark important parts of the battle, like when characters clash, charge, or fall, making the scene more intense. The music goes along with the editing and movements in terms of how they make you feel and what they tell you. It guides your reactions and pulls you deeper into the struggle.

Setting the Time Period, the Physical Location, etc.

The music's main job is to emphasize the dramatic and emotional parts of the scene. However, the way it's put together and the themes it explores also bring to mind old Rome and the historical importance of the battle. Even though the instruments used aren't historically accurate, the grandiose and formal nature of the score add to a sense of great historical drama that puts the audience in the time period and shows how important these events were in Roman history.





Hail, Caesar!

JULIUS CAESAR

1954

Epic, emotional, storytelling.

What is it about how the music worked in this scene that prompted you to choose it?

I chose the Battle of Phillipi scene from *Julius Caesar* (1954) for my assignment because I've always been fascinated by how music can transform a movie scene. I remember loving *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare back in grade 12 so much that I even made a comic book for my English 12 class project. This scene stood out to me because of how the full orchestra, with its powerful brass and percussion, really brings the battle to life. The strings add so much feeling, making the characters' bravery and sadness feel real to me.

What I found amazing was how the music worked with everything happening on screen. It wasn't just background music. It made every moment of the battle feel bigger and more important. When the music got quiet, it made the dialogue and battle sounds stand out more, making everything feel more intense. Then, when the music arose again, it made the action feel even more exciting.

I also loved how the music told its own story. It wasn't just there to make the scene exciting; it helped show what the characters were going through and made the big moments of the battle even more powerful. It's like the music was a part of the storytelling, using different tunes and sounds to bring out the themes of power, loyalty, and fate that are so important in *Julius Caesar*.

Choosing this Battle of Phillipi scene for my assignment felt right because the film music in it is a perfect example of how a great score can make a movie scene unforgettable. It's not just about the notes or the instruments. It's about how all those elements come together to make you feel part of the story. That's what I find so incredible about film music, and it's why I wanted to dive deeper into this scene.

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Hail, Caesar!

THANK YOU!

