

WHY I WROTE, "MARCH OF THE OGRES"

I was inspired to write this song when my dad and I were having a contest where you have to make up a song out of scratch. I came up with the main tune and chord progressions. I was in first grade at that time. Two years later, I remembered the tune and started adding notes to the original part. I was spending a week at my grandparent's house at the time. When my parents came down to get me, I played the tune for my dad, and he liked it. That's when we decided to write out the score, using Noteworthy Composer. As I played the tune over and over, it began to tell a story in my mind. This gave me ideas for other parts of the song. In the end, it became a two-minute piece.

The beginning of the song sounds quite haunting, and it reminded me of a video game I like to play, which has many different monsters. The monster, which fit the theme the best, is the Ogre.



Image Provided by <http://www.elfwood.com/art/g/u/guee/redogre.jpg.html>

Although Ogres can be scary, they can be fun too. Take Shrek, for example. He has quite a sense of humor. I imagined the Ogres dancing in the forest. This is the middle theme, and I wanted it to show the other side of Ogres. Eventually, the Ogres return to their march, and become frightful again.

I put key changes in the song, to help tell the story. It begins in C minor, because this is a dire sounding key. When I tried to lighten the theme, I worked out a key change using the original 3-note patterns. This naturally moved to an A-flat major key. It is in A-flat, where the Ogres have their dance in the forest, and the little Ogre girls have a picnic. Then, when they return to their march, I altered the key – back to C minor. It was a lot of fun working up the key changes, because it was very challenging. I tried several different arpeggios until I came up with the right combination.

Now, each instrument in the song represents different parts of the story. I chose a piano part, because that is what I used to compose the song. It represents the Ogres, and their individual personalities. You might even hear female Ogres singing high notes, and making terrible noises. The Guitar part is the rain. You will notice that it plays constantly throughout the song – just like the drizzle of rain in the forest. The timpani sound like big stomping feet. It is a constant beat at the beginning and the end, but in the middle it is livelier, like a dance. The French Horn represents the thunder that accompanies the rain. It also might sound like young male Ogres with their voices getting lower as they are changing into adults.



Image Provided by <http://forums.gamehavoc.com/showthread.php?t=19458>

I hope you enjoy my piece,

Spencer Young