



# NOTRE DAME COLLEGIATE MUSIC



## Story Music Assignment

### THE BASICS OF THE ASSIGNMENT

You will be given a few pieces of music to choose from. You will be choosing one and imagining a story where that music would be the “soundtrack”. This involves creatively thinking differently about music.

### STEPS TO THE STORY

When it comes to writing the story, there are certain stages I asked you to go through. **Follow the instructions very carefully** so as to make your story the best it can possibly be.

#### Step 1 – Listen to the *1<sup>st</sup> Minute Only* of each of the musical options

First, you need to get to the music. It is available in the **#story-music** Discord Channel and at <https://music.ndcfinearts.ca/responding>.

**Listen to the 1<sup>st</sup> minute only. Don't get ahead!**

#### Step 2 – Choose the piece of music that speaks to you most.

#### Step 3 – Write the SETTING for your story.

Thinking about that *1<sup>st</sup> minute of music* only for the piece you chose, where and when will your story take place? Draw inspiration from the music. There are no limits; the setting can be in the past, present, or future, and it can be a fantasy location, underwater, in High River, or any other location you can imagine.

Describe that setting. Be detailed. Is it indoors or outdoors? Are there plants and animals? What time of day (if there is such a thing as daytime) is it? What time of year is it? Be detailed and specific.

**Write this after listening ONLY to the 1<sup>st</sup> Minute of the music.**

## Step 4 – Create your Main Character

Who is your story going to be about? Again, there are no limits; the character can be as realistic or fantastical as you like. If you are used to playing roleplaying games where you have to design a character (The Sims, Dungeons and Dragons, Fallout), you can use that as inspiration for creating your character.

What do they look like? Are they human, or are they an animal, beast, fairy or demigod? Are they tall? What color is their skin, hair and eyes?

What do they like and do? What makes them get up in the morning (whether they like it or not)? What do they wish they could do or be?

**Write this after listening ONLY to the 1<sup>st</sup> Minute of the music.**

## Step 5 – FINALLY! You can listen to the rest of the music to make your story.

As you listen to the rest of the music, try to imagine an “initial incident”; a problem or change your character has to face. Once you have that initial incident, you can use the music to inspire how your character experiences that initial incident, and what they do to solve their problem(s).

Write the full story out. It should be long enough to provide imagery and detail as to what happens. A reader should be able to picture in their imagination what is happening, enhanced by the music you chose.

## Step 6 – Explaining the Elements of Music in your Story.

In your story, in a different color or font, or maybe as a comment, include comments about what about the music made you write what you did. Consider the following elements;

- Rhythm (simple or compound, duple or triple)
- Melody (high or lows)
- Mode (major or minor)
- Dynamics and Articulations (forte, piano, staccato, legato)

For example, say you wrote “it was a dark and stormy night” because you hear low minor chords. Write “low minor chords” in a different colour beside that sentence, or in a separate comment.

## WHERE DOES THE STORY GO?

In the Discord channel #story-music, you can create a new assignment channel. Once you’ve created your new assignment channel, you can either write your story there (paragraph by paragraph) or attach a photo of your finished hand-written story.