

I am going to focus my project 2 on the concept of a “needle drop” in media. A needle drop is the use of a pre-existing piece of music inserted into a movie, TV show, video game, etc., instead of an original score. It is similar to original scores in the sense that it can build or elicit emotional responses, help set a vibe or mood for a scene, introduce a time period, or serve one of a hundred other purposes for music in media. Some examples are "Don't Stop Believing" in The Sopranos, “Far Away” in Red Dead Redemption, and probably the most famous being the opening scene of 2001: A Space Odyssey using the classical piece “Also sprach Zarathustra.” While on the surface, utilizing already created music for a piece of media may seem lazy or easy, it actually can be just as hard as creating an original score because not only do you need to find a song that perfectly portrays or fits the scene and its mood, but you also have to jump through all the hoops of being legally allowed to use the music. It can be argued that using licensed music can enhance the emotional impact of a scene far more than any original score could due to a viewer's previous knowledge of a song and the emotions they already have associated with it.