Unit Five: Dramatic Examples

Underscoring in a dramatic musical may, at times, be heavier and fuller than in a comedic setting. One great example to look at is the latter half of the second act of *South Pacific* which contains many war scenes. In order to build the tension, the full orchestra underscores a lot. In a more contemporary show, *The Secret Garden*, this technique may be used, but lighter more sparse underscoring is more commonly found.

In this first example, we can see the sound of the robin. Make a note of how the cue is indicated.

A picture containing table

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In this second example, note how the sting brings to mind the memory of life in India, how simply it is orchestrated and how clear the cue is indicated.

Diagram

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Finally, in this final example, make a note of how the dialogue cues are indicated in relationship to the building chords.

Diagram, engineering drawing

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