Unit Five: Comedic Examples

Particularly in comedy, underscoring can be quite light. As indicated in the example below from *Avenue Q*, it can be a simple well-timed chord. Notice that it is played in a register higher than the spoken voice.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

In the next example, below, the underscoring is a simple bell tree. When using underscoring, it can be tempting to write too much. Sometimes, shorter, lighter sound or musical motives work better.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

In this final example from *Avenue Q,* please not how light the texture is and how lightly scored the idea is. You can also see how the cues are indicated at the end of the line for the release of the fermata. In more contemporary shows, underscore is often used very lightly and sparingly.

Diagram, engineering drawing

Description automatically generated