

5/14/96

The Little Mushroom

There was once a little mushroom. And this is the story of the little mushroom. . . .

Noodle on gender (4 bars) 1 2 1

- 1) A family of mushrooms grew from the damp, black soil near a stream, in the cool shade of trees. There were big mushrooms, and bigger mushrooms, and even a biggest mushroom. [big Mushroom theme- use soft sticks]

gender

And there were little mushrooms and littler mushrooms. [smaller Mushroom theme]

But the little mushroom was the very littlest.
Little Mushroom Theme- use hard and soft sticks.

gender

- 2) And even though they all seemed different, they were really all related, because they were all connected underground.

Connected Theme, major key. Short phrase solo, then underscore.

vc

And the little mushroom could feel everything good— like when a new mushroom sprouted up into the field, or when another mushroom soaked up the water through the damp soil, or was in a cool shade on a warm day. And the little mushroom could feel everything bad— [music goes to minor and slows down]

vc

like when another mushroom was pecked by a bird, or dried up when the stream was low, or carried away when the stream was high, or burned when a branch fell down and the sun shone through [stop music], because they were all connected underground.

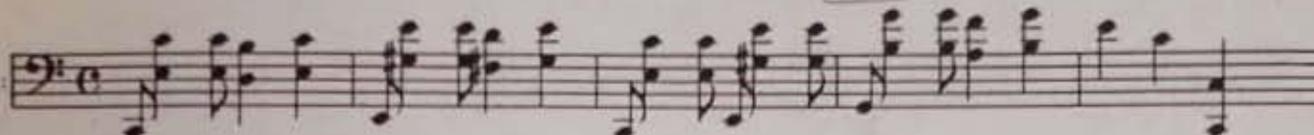
Connected Theme, major key.

Underscoring continues. . . .

But usually the little mushroom was happy, because there were more things to make a little mushroom happy than there were to make a little mushroom sad. . . .

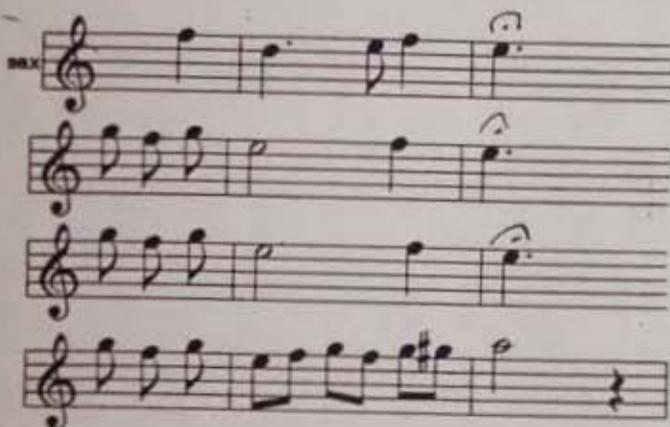
Connected Theme cadence

PAUSE



3) Until late one summer, another animal came to the trees near the stream, singing the song—

Man Theme, music/words alternate: music first

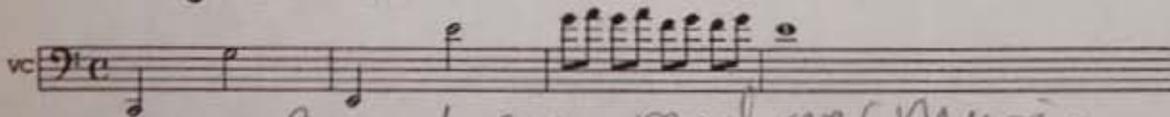


My family is gone.
So here I am alone.
So I can try again
To build myself a home.

4) No music

During the days, the animal would go away. At night, it would come back to eat its food, and sleep under the branches of a big tree.

Big Tree Theme



Pause 1 sec. read over music,

attaca Connected Theme

But when the animal walked to and from the stream, or in and out of the forest, sometimes, it trampled the mushrooms. And the little mushroom could feel that too [stop music], because they were all connected underground.

Connected theme (pizz). Happy lead up to disaster.

wait until mushrooms



5) no music And with the cold, [start music] the animal became even more restless, walking across the field from here to there, feeling the trees, and rubbing its feet. At night, it would curl itself into a ball and shake....

Man Theme tremolo w/sax (establish trem. =man)

6)

No music

And then one day, it cut down the branches of the big tree.
Tree Theme w/lots of falling...

Musical notation for 'Tree Theme' in bass clef. It starts with a whole note, followed by a series of sixteenth notes. The first section is marked 'marcato' and the second section is marked 'pizz'.

Come in over plucking (1) bar after sax

READER GETS IMPASSIONATE mf

And if they could have, all the mushrooms would have warned the animal that the sun would burn it without the cool shade of the tree— and that the rain would wash it away without leaves for shelter during storms. But the man couldn't live like a mushroom. And when the sun burned all the mushrooms whose shade was gone, and the rain from a storm washed all the unsheltered mushrooms away, the little mushroom felt all the pain, [stop music] because they were all connected underground.

Connected Theme variation, bowed

Musical notation for 'Connected Theme variation, bowed' in bass clef, marked 'arco'. It consists of a series of chords. A handwritten 'MIDI' with an arrow points to the right.

Then the animal chopped the branches of the big tree into boards and laid them on the ground where it used to sleep in the shade of the leaves— the leaves of the big tree, that were gone.

Fallen leaves [w/glisses]

Musical notation for 'Fallen leaves' in bass clef. It includes markings for 'vary ad lib', 'gliss', 'repeat ad lib', and 'accel'. A box labeled 'w/following paragraph' is placed over the first part of the notation.

And if they could have, all the mushrooms would have warned the animal that if the earth was covered, it wouldn't be able to take root, or nourish itself from the soil. But the man couldn't live like a mushroom. And as the boards were laid down, the mushrooms that had been there before were crushed under the new floor. And the little mushroom felt the pain [stop music], because they were all connected underground.

Button:

end music plus

Musical notation for 'Button' in bass clef, consisting of a few notes.

7)

Then the animal cut down the big tree [~~Tree Theme on sax~~]

new saxophone
keep going to

and made walls to enclose the floor, and a roof to cover up the walls, to build a house where the big tree used to be. And when the house was done, the animal made a door, and went inside.

AND if they could have, all the mushrooms [very sparse gender] would have finally understood the animal, because they also needed a warm, dark place to grow. . . .

Wait until music ends

8)

BRIEF INTRO:

Each day, as the winter came, the animal would return from the woods with less to eat. And once, while it walked on the path to the house, it noticed a very big mushroom — the very biggest mushroom. Then the animal knelt down beside the very biggest mushroom, and touched its cap [lecherous glisses around d sul g]. Then it touched its stem, and felt it all over. And then the animal picked the biggest mushroom [READER PAUSES?] gliss up to high harmonic], washed it in the stream [silence = g tremolo sul a], and disappeared with it into the house. [revert] And the little mushroom felt when the animal took the very biggest mushroom away [stop music], because they were all connected underground.

Man Theme on cello continued, lots of glisses

And then, the next day, the animal came and picked the next biggest [gliss up to high harmonic] mushroom — and the next [simile w/rhythm] — and the next — and disappeared with them into the house. And then, every day, the animal came to pick mushrooms. Until finally, there were no more mushrooms, except the little mushroom, who was left all alone, and felt very small....

*3 SLOW
3 FAST*

Ominous. Sax: Connected. VC: Gliss to high tremolo

FROM CONTINUES

9) No music - Reader reads without inflection, to stress musical inflection.

And, all night, the little mushroom felt all the other mushrooms that were gone, because once, they were all connected underground.

Extended cello and gender moment

vc 3/4
Gender 3/4
vc 3/4
jdr 3/4

10) In the morning, the animal found the little mushroom, and picked it. [gliss] And the little mushroom was thrown into a basket full of roots and nuts and leaves. And then, with all the other ingredients in the basket, the little mushroom was thrown into a pot of water.

Cello hit with stick Glissando up and down each measure using the Connected themem rhythm with variation. poco accel.

And the scalding hot water become hotter. . . . But as the little mushroom cooked, all the roots and leaves and nuts came together in the broth. And as hot as it was, for all of them, it was like having another family. . . .

Cello: mid Db trem, ponticello

But then, the little mushroom felt the pain all over again, of losing a family, as the animal ate up the stew, until there was nothing left but the little mushroom.

Cello: Mushroom Theme sul A, end high, sempre trem

sempre trem

11) Read softly

But the little mushroom had shrunken even smaller in the hot water [music gets very soft], and had become so small, so very small, that the animal just drank up the little mushroom with the broth.

So the little mushroom disappeared into the animal's mouth, no gliss and slid down the animal's throat. [gliss down to trem]

But that wasn't the end of the little mushroom, because when the little mushroom landed at the bottom of the animal's belly, it was so very dark, and soft, and warm, that the little mushroom knew it had never been in a better place to grow. [end trem] HOLD NOTE - NO TREM

And the little mushroom grew.

Mushroom Theme starts to grow

Handwritten notes:
W/O 18
W/O 16

TRANSPOSE

EXPLORE

Handwritten musical score for the first system, featuring Saxophone (Sax), Upright Bass (UC), and Grand Piano (Gnd) parts. The first few notes of the saxophone part are circled in red.

come in after 3 measures.

Inside the animal, it was cozy. Sometimes the animal walked out to the field, across the grass to the stream, or into the forest, to fetch some water, or find some food. And when the animal drank the water, and ate the food, the little mushroom also drank the water, and ate the food, taking the nourishment through its roots.

So the little mushroom grew.

Handwritten musical score for the second system, featuring Saxophone (Sax), Upright Bass (UC), and Grand Piano (Gnd) parts.

Handwritten musical score for the third system, featuring Saxophone (Sax), Upright Bass (UC), and Grand Piano (Gnd) parts. Measure 17 is marked.

Handwritten musical score for the fourth system, featuring Saxophone (Sax), Upright Bass (UC), and Grand Piano (Gnd) parts. Measure 25 is marked.

Handwritten musical score for the fifth system, featuring Saxophone (Sax), Upright Bass (UC), and Grand Piano (Gnd) parts. Measure 30 is marked.

Handwritten musical score for the sixth system, featuring Saxophone (Sax), Upright Bass (UC), and Grand Piano (Gnd) parts. Measure 41 is marked.

Handwritten musical score for the seventh system, featuring Saxophone (Sax), Upright Bass (UC), and Grand Piano (Gnd) parts. Measure 48 is marked.

subito piano
repeat until *sang the song (stop)*

And as the little mushroom grew, the animal became smaller, and it didn't go to the stream, or into the forest, as much anymore. The animal didn't eat or drink as often as it used to. And sometimes, it breathed hard, or clutched its stomach and moaned. Then the animal began to lie down, even in the daytime. And when the animal had stopped moving around so much, bouncing the little mushroom all over, the little mushroom could finally take root in its soft surroundings.

FADE OUT

So the little mushroom could grow, even bigger.

TOO HIGH POSSIBLE

And as the little mushroom grew, the little mushroom could feel the animal moving less and less. Until, finally, it hardly moved at all. It just clutched its stomach, moaned, breathed hard, and sang the song—

Man Theme on sax (small range)

*My family is gone.
So here I am alone.
I've come to try again.
And this is where I am.*

And as the animal became even softer, the little mushroom's roots grew even deeper. And the little mushroom grew even bigger.

soft

14) Then the animal stopped moving altogether. It didn't clutch its stomach, moan, breath hard, sing, or do anything at all. [sax honk] And then the animal became even softer, and softer.

Cello: minor Connected Theme. Mush Theme on gender

And the little mushroom grew and grew until the little mushroom became so big, and heavy, that the little mushroom fell through the floor.

And when the little mushroom's roots grew down into the ground, the little mushroom grew up, even bigger.

Until finally, the little mushroom grew too big for the little house, and pushed down one of the walls— Then the little mushroom pushed down another— Then another— Then the last wall fell too, and only the roof stayed balanced on the little mushroom, like an umbrella protecting it from the sun.

And even long after the little mushroom was gone, its roots were still all under the ground. And so [note], slowly [note], little mushrooms and littler mushrooms, [small Mushroom Theme] big mushrooms and bigger mushrooms [big Mushroom Theme], sprouted up all over, until, one day, they covered the black soil, near the stream, in the cool shade of the trees, again.

Noodle peacefully on gender. Connect noodle to Tree Theme falling.