

A Bloody Symphony of Characters

Music and Leitmotive in Mortal Kombat 11

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Introduction

- Leitmotif, defined:
 - “Theme, or other coherent musical idea, clearly defined so as to retain its identity if modified on subsequent appearances, whose purpose is to represent or symbolize a person, object, place, idea, state of mind, supernatural force or any other ingredient in a dramatic work” (*Grove Music Online*)



WAGNER

**DER RING DES
NIBELUNGEN**

Berliner Philharmoniker

KARAJAN

MORTAL KOMBAT™



- Content Warning:
 - Exaggerated violence
 - Some blood

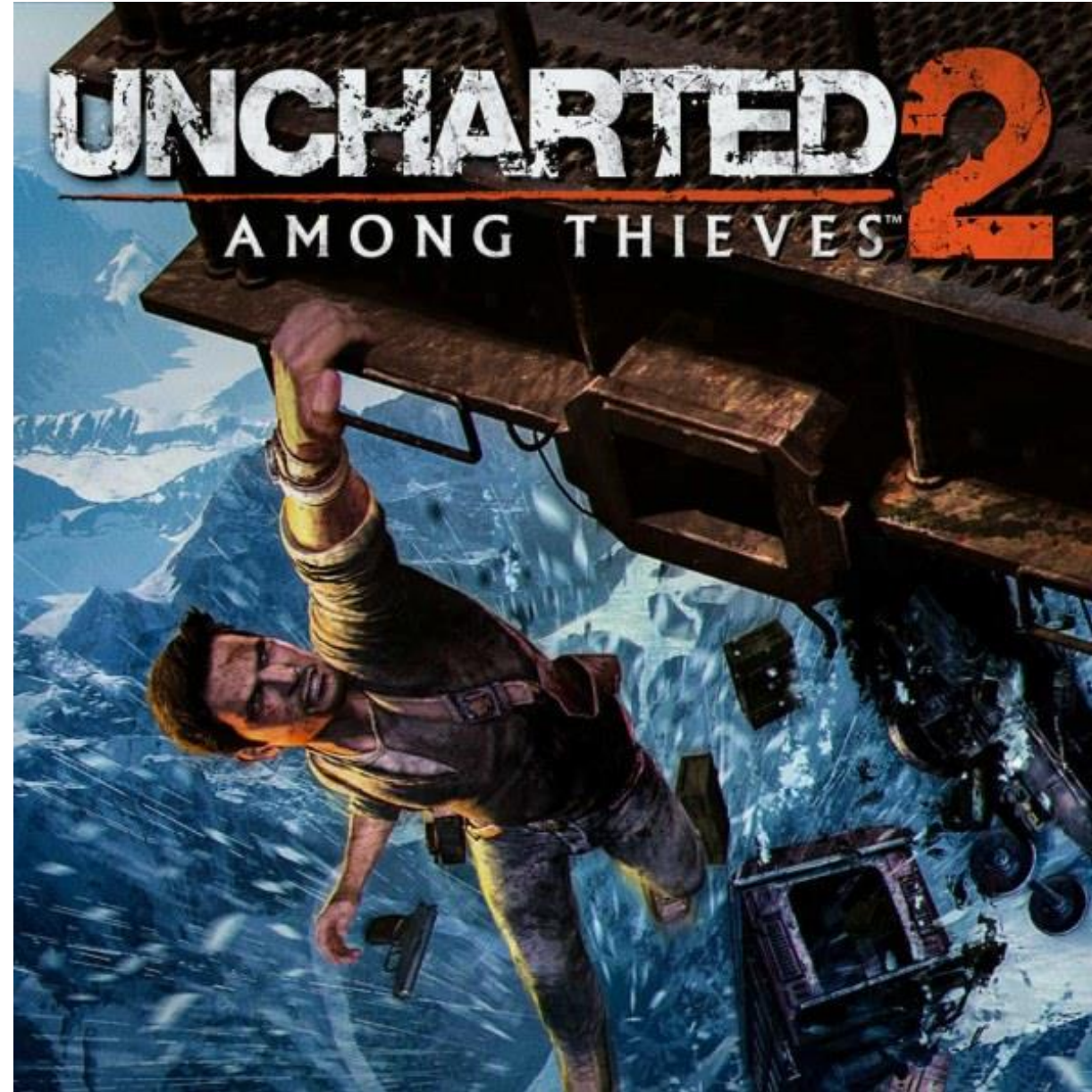
Leitmotif vs Melodic Theme

- Melodic theme
 - No significant development!
- Leitmotif
 - Modified, yet still recognized
 - Some grey area... *reuse and modification!*

Leitmotif vs Melodic Theme



Uncharted 2:
“Reunion”



Leitmotif vs Melodic Theme



Uncharted 4: Libertalia Motif

Uncharted 4 "Libertalia Motif"



Character-based Leitmotifs



Character-based Leitmotifs

Final Fantasy 6 "Terra's Theme"



Melody In Fighting Games



Melody In Fighting Games



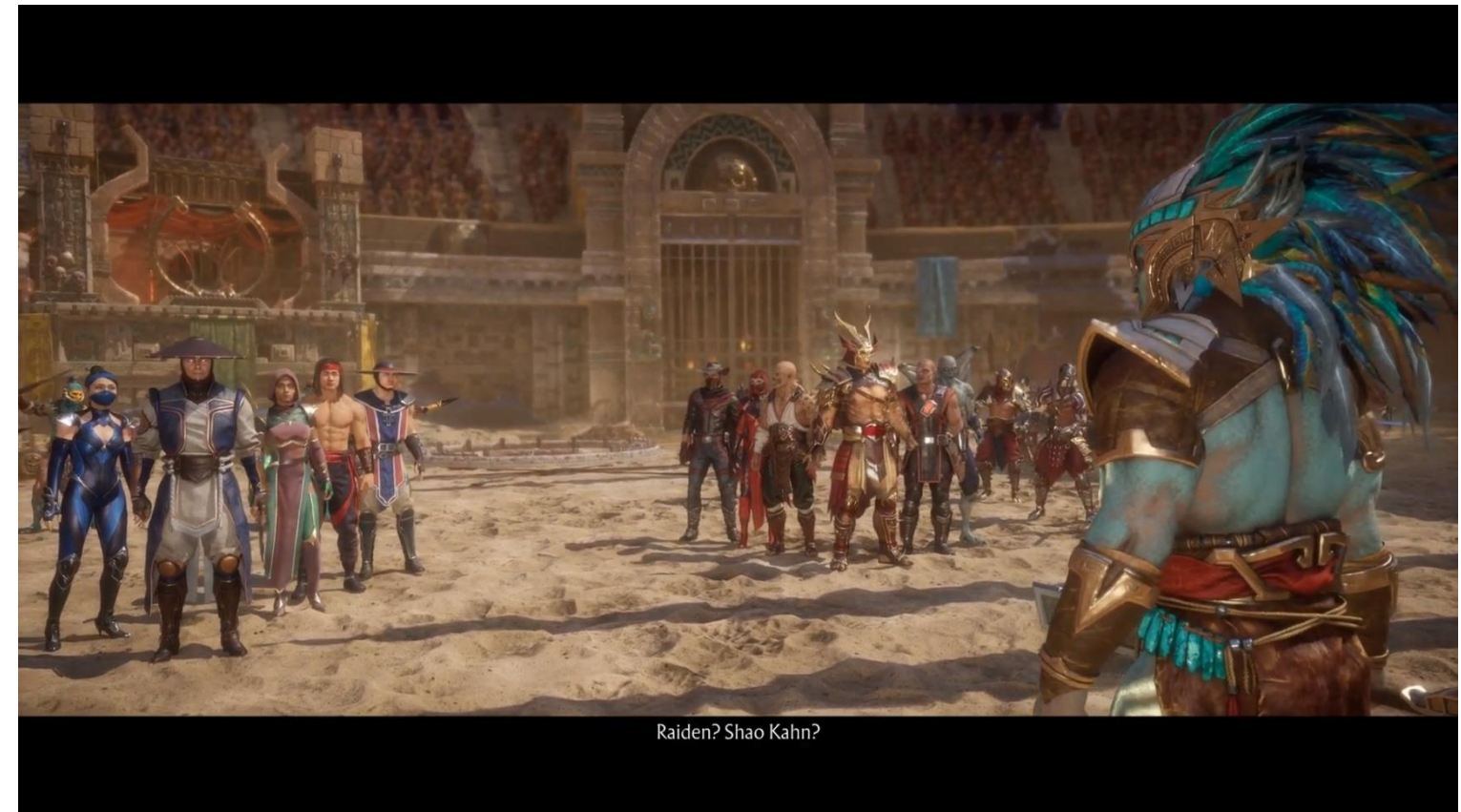
Mortal Kombat Goes Cinematic



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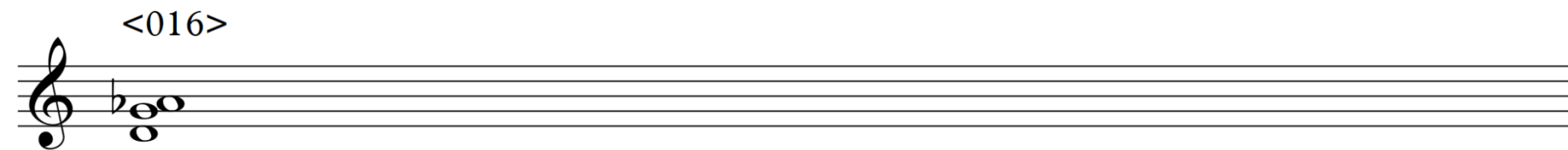
...Leitmotiv!

6	EARTH REALM		
7	S.Forces "Tragic"	Special Forces	Principal melodic theme for S.Forces (Jaxx, Sonya, Cassie, Jacqui, Johnny); typically in tragic or emotional moments
8	S.Forces "Battleplan"	Special Forces	Not a theme so much as a production vibe; backgroundy but energetic electronic beats with orchestra
9	S.Forces "Cool Action"	Special Forces	Used for particularly cool action moments involving any S.Forces member; not a specific theme or sound, but usually an over-the-top 7/8 riff
10	Kung	Kung Lao	Not really a theme or a signature, but when necessary, guzheng trem OR eth solo vocal
11	Ninjas	Scorpion and Sub Zero	Not drawing distinction between these characters; all are elecVC vibe and low FX-piano rhythm
12	B.D.	Black Dragon	Used principally for both Kanos, as well as occasionally Kabal, Cyber-LinKuei, and others associated with the Black Dragon. The signature sound of snake rattling is more a Kanos thing, and the rising 7th figure (usu on in-your-face synth or guitar FX) is more universal
13	Cyber	Cyber LinKuei	Rarely used; usually they're rolled into the Black Dragon
14	FGLK	Fire-God Liu Kang	Raiden theme, but with descending minor scale riff
15			
16			
17	OUTWORLD		
18	KT	Kitana	Aka "new outworld theme"; used for the character and also her mission to unite outworld
19	Jd/KOT	Jade and Kotal (love theme)	Used for both characters and their relationship
20	K-vs-SK	Kotal vs. Shao Khan	Simple action riff
21	BRK	Baraka	Simple signature tone of uruk-horn sample; applicable to all Outworld savage randos
22	SK	Shao Khan	
23	SCA	Scarlet	Simple signature tone of harpsichord and/or nasty under-the-skin harpsi/synth FX
24	ERR	Erron Black	Simple signature tone of acoustic gt rasgueado flourish, or single low piano stab with FX
25	Kollekt	Kollektor	Just a signature sound of a blur of cencerros and a bag of shells
26	ST	Shang Tsung	Used for ST or the WofS. Is actually a reference to MK2 intro theme; MK-gong is a recreation of the movie main theme
27			
28			
29	ELDER GODS' MINIONS		
30	Rev	Revenants Theme	Both the descending chromatic figure and the synth percussion beat that often accompanies it
31	GRS	Geras	Two signature sounds - polyrhythmic metals (GRS scheming) and takka-takka fast whispers when he's respawning
32	NSb	Noob Saibot	
33			
34			
35	GODS / ELDER GODS		
36	RAI	Raiden	Pure version of RAI theme, heroic 5ths, etc.
37	dark-RAI	Dark Raiden	Corruption of RAI theme with dissonant intervals instead of heroic ones
38	FGLK	Fire-God Liu Kang	Descending natural minor scale on high strings or synth strings; always in conjunction with RAI theme

Mortal Kombat 11 Music Direction



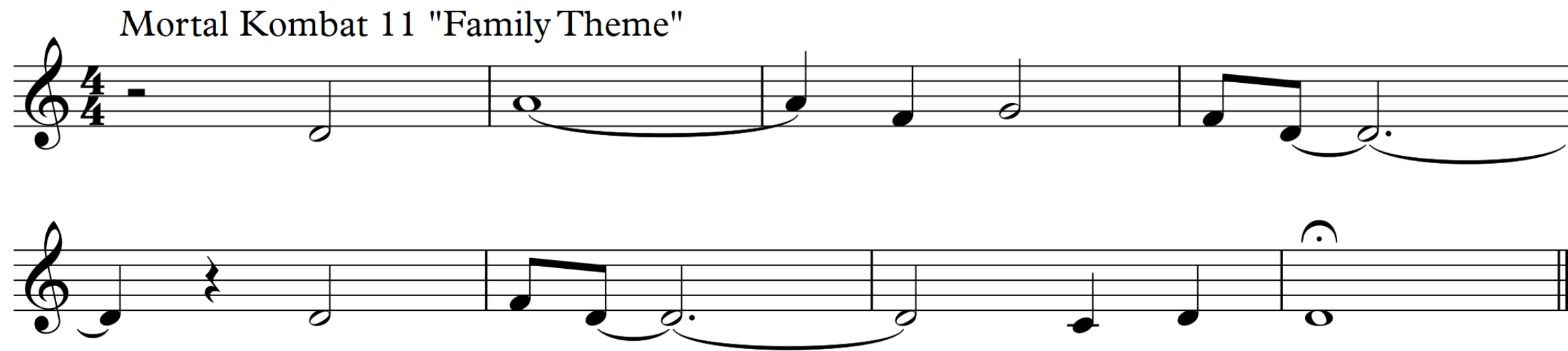
Mortal Kombat 11 Music Direction



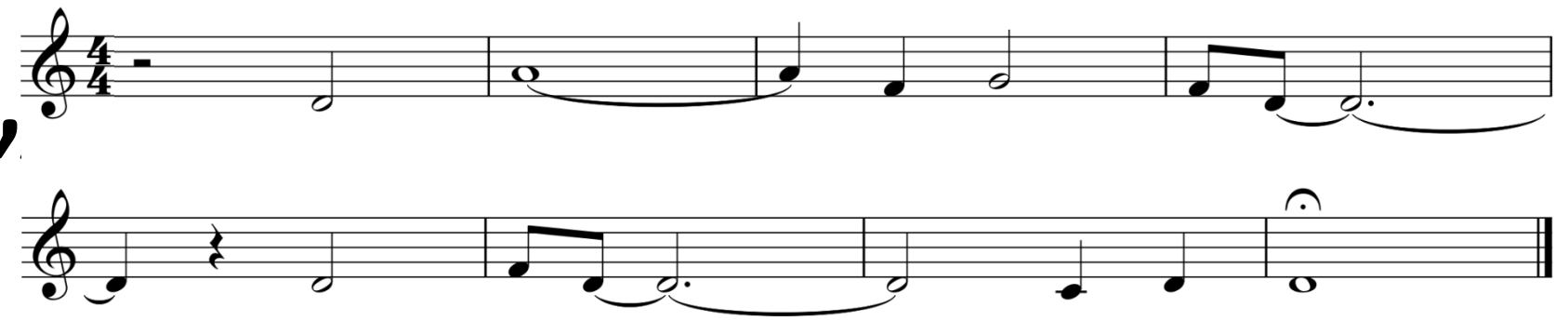
MK11: “Family Theme”



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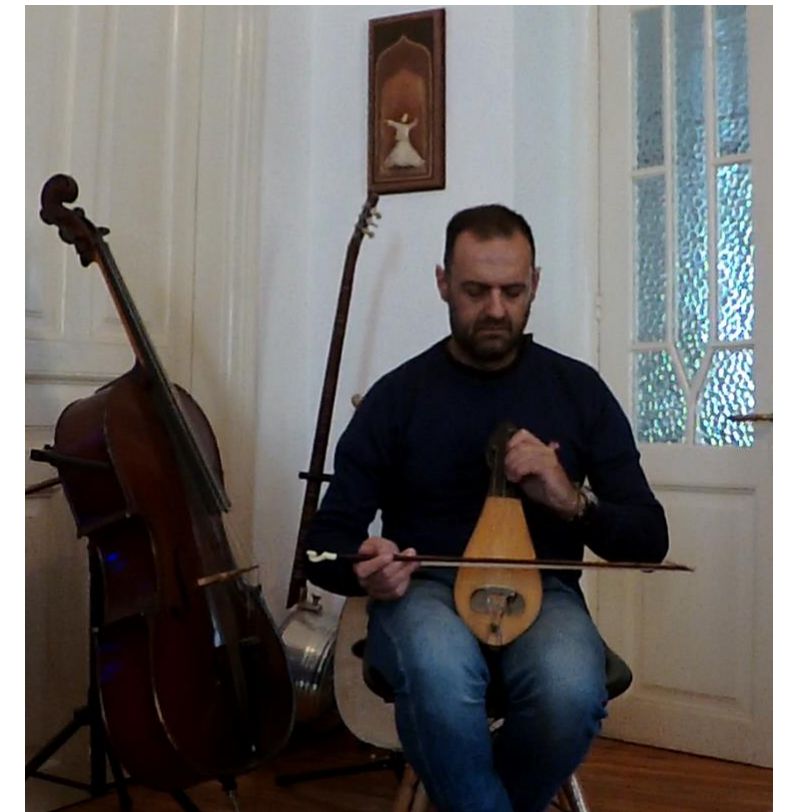


MK11: “Family Theme”



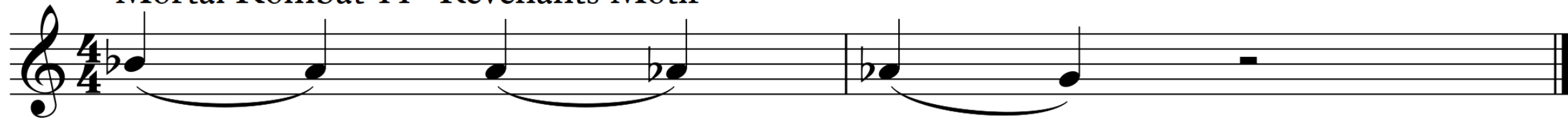
MK11: “Kronika’s Theme”

Mortal Kombat 11 "Kronika's Theme"

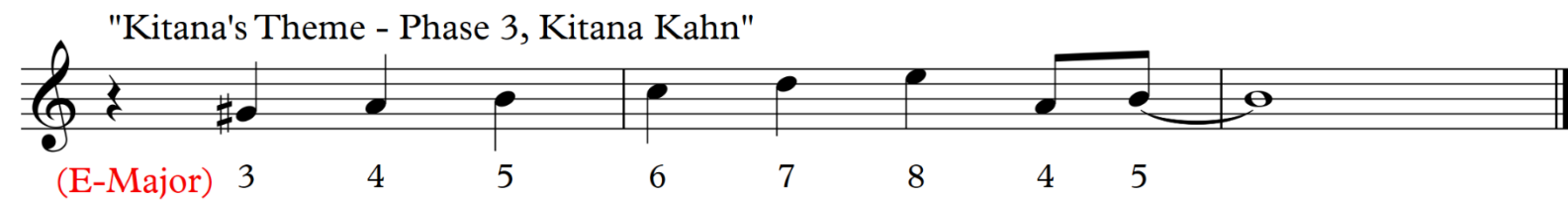
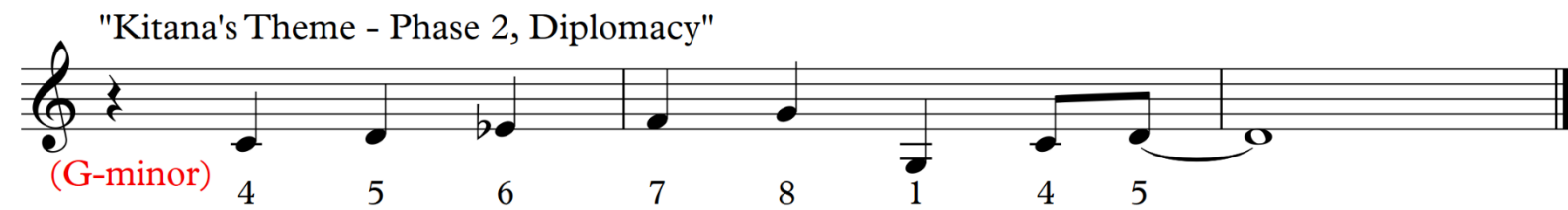


MK11: “Revenants’ Theme”

Mortal Kombat 11 "Revenants Motif"

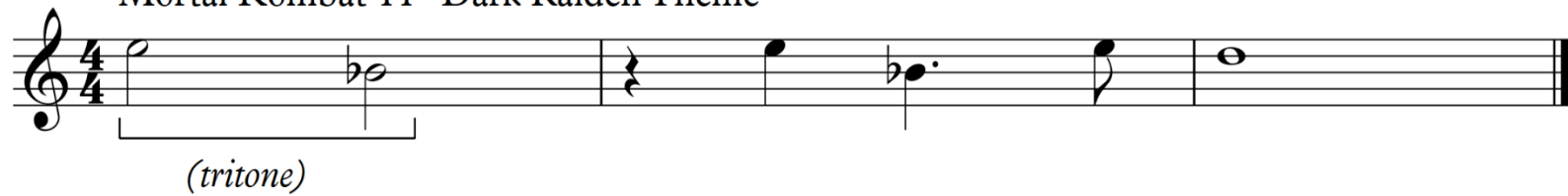


MK11: “Kitana’s Theme”

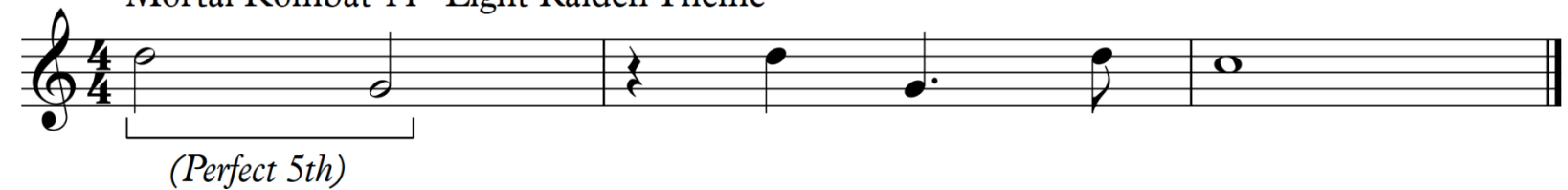


MK11: “Dark vs. Light Raiden”

Mortal Kombat 11 "Dark Raiden Theme"

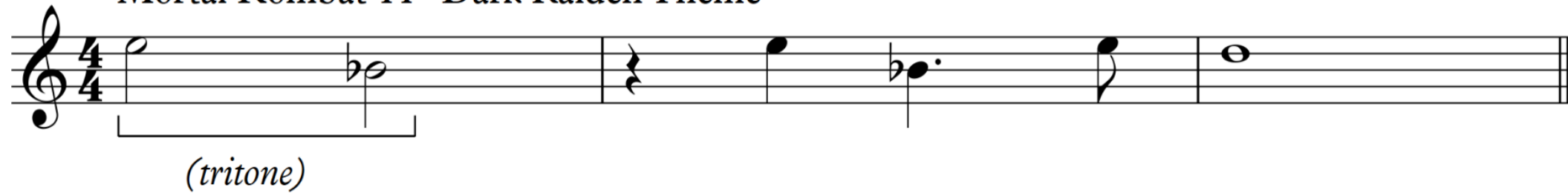


Mortal Kombat 11 "Light Raiden Theme"

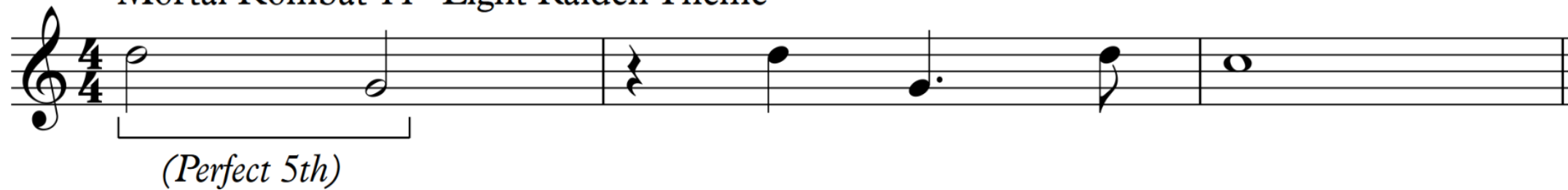


MK11: “Dark vs. Light Raiden”

Mortal Kombat 11 "Dark Raiden Theme"



Mortal Kombat 11 "Light Raiden Theme"



MK11: "Cetrion vs. Raiden"

Mortal Kombat 11 "Cetrion's Theme"



(Perfect 4th)

3

i (root)



Mortal Kombat 11 "Light Raiden Theme"



(Perfect 5th)

i (root)

bVII (subtonic)



MK11: “Fire God Liu Kang’s Theme”

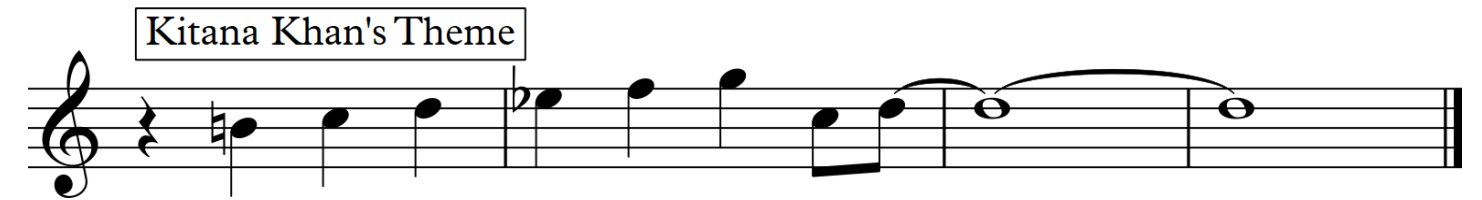


MK11: Endcredits, “Rise”

Verse



Chorus



Conclusion



Thank You!

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