

Leitmotif

A ... salient recurring figure ... that has some special importance in or is characteristic of a composition: the smallest structural unit possessing thematic identity.

And God spoke, decreeing

A people must have aught by which to know themselves

S/he/They/It created Art the Voice,

Who immediately pointed out that *this will lead to trouble, you know.*

God, however, had been to the symphony A time or two

And had a crafty notion he'd picked up watching swallows

Carve the very air into symphonic shapes and float away....

Light lalalalalala la la*

In particular such a motif should be 'clearly identified so as to retain its identity if modified on subsequent appearances' whether such modification be in terms of rhythm, harmony, orchestration or accompaniment. ...

The swallows follow all together, master never seen.

A people must have aught by which to show they know themselves, mused

Art. A properly wrought symphony, in which they skirl like swallows

Curl and unfurl and hurl their brilliances up into ***light la la la la la la la***

la...

Perhaps it is knowing how songs are built

And the difference between song and symphony

That allows small birds to flow *la la la* ...

Leitmotifs can help to bind a work together into a coherent whole, and also enable the composer to relate a story without the use of words, or to add an extra level to an already present story. ***Heya hey hey hey hey hey la la...***

Said Art the Voice, *Who gets to play this leading theme?*

Violins demand, drums rumble and command

Trumpets speak volumes about how thrilling their clarion call

Consider, drawled God, the humble clarinet

never accused of brassy extremes, no violin high strung

no double bass low slung, no get it on banging gong

nor velvet cello set to break your heart

no unspeakable piccolo squeal will do

**knowing how songs are built
the difference between song and symphony
That allows of a steady hand and careful eye
Transforming this motley rabble of cats and divas
Into bands of swallows soaring**

*Simple with birds, said Art the Voice,
This cat and diva rabble, this brass and blaring concatenation
Haven't got the concentration*

By association, the word ... is sometimes also used in discussion of other musical genres, such as instrumental pieces, cinema, and [video game music](#), sometimes interchangeably with the more general category of 'theme'.

Such usages typically obscure the crucial aspect of a leitmotif, as opposed to the plain musical motif or theme - that it is transformable and recurs in different guises throughout the piece in which it occurs.

Oh, concentration, said God, that's something mountains teach.

**Art, set that guy on the job, that clarinet balladeer
who's walked enough, looking up, to know
song and symphony, the size of a bird and a mountain
the lift of air la la la la la la la la la...**

*Meh, Lord, said Art, a clarinet, Lord, is so easily over-voiced
Besides which I've heard that fool opine
Of divas, cats and rabble-heads,
'Oh, but I'm sure they have a good heart,'
The sort of opinion more commonly held by bird-brained... oh.
Looking up it is. Make it so, then, Lord; what do I know?*

La la la la la la la....

A **leitmotif** (pron.: /[ˌlaɪtməʊˈtiːf](#)/) is a musical term referring to a 'short, constantly recurring [musical phrase](#)',^[1] associated with a particular person, place, or idea ... an anglicization of the [German *Leitmotiv*](#), literally meaning "leading motif", or perhaps more accurately, "guiding motif".

Good times, good times, thought God with a sigh
A good symphony can last you a long time
A properly wrought symphony, all the highs and lows, the confident arc
toward
A moment where every heart beats high. Yes, that's the thing.

And if God and Art have brought us this man
What can we do, O good-hearted rabble of cats and divas?
What is there to do but rise?
Rise, turn, dance Carve the very air into symphonic shapes,
And float away
Light ... la la la...

**Take your pick of melodic phrase for la-ing. I chose a variation on a phrase from Richard Strauss's 'der Rosenkavalier' suite. Something about service and chivalry, if you wish to think of it as a thematic choice - truth is, I just found it by seredipity, under 'clarinet music,' and liked the way it sounded.*