

# Unravelling Music



PRESENTS

## "HALLOWEEN EVE'S BIRTHDAY BASH"



# Unravelling Music

## Welcome to the Unravelling Music Halloween Special: "Halloween Eve's Birthday Bash"

Who said that ear training couldn't be fun? Enjoy learning while listening to great music on your iPod.

The Unravelling Music series is designed to help you learn, wherever you are – just by listening to music. Spend a little time getting to know the track using the extra clips and track notes provided, and then simply listen to the track to reinforce what you've learned.

For this Halloween special, the audio examples will help train your ears to hear **minor chords** and **intervals**, and you'll find out some of the tricks for making tracks extra **Spooky!**

Now you can train your ears to hear more in music whether you are at the office, at your dorm, working out, or at your neighbourhood Halloween party. Ear Training has never been so much fun!

## Audio Index

There are 7 audio tracks which make up this Halloween special. The main music track and 6 example clips:

- (#1) Halloween Eve's Birthday Bash**
- (#2) Ex. 1 [0.00] Sound FX 1: Establishing atmosphere
- (#3) Ex. 2 [0.11] Sound FX 2: Building the scene
- (#4) Ex. 3 [0:14] Minor chord
- (#5) Ex. 4 [0:35] Minor arpeggio on harp
- (#6) Ex. 5 [1:23] Minor second interval
- (#7) Ex. 6 [1:45] Pan and Pitch audio effects

## Basic musical terms

If you haven't studied much music before - no problem! But you may find some of the terms used in the track notes are unfamiliar. Here are a few explanations to help you get started:

➤ Interval:

*The distance in pitch between two notes.*

➤ Chord:

*3 or more notes played together.*

➤ Major:

*A type of interval or chord with a bright, happy sound.*

➤ Minor:

*A type of interval or chord with a dark, gloomy sound.*

➤ **Dissonant:**

*When notes played together clash and have an uncomfortable sound.*

➤ **Audio Effect:**

*A way of artificially altering sound to achieve a certain effect.*

Note: When you see a time marker like **[01:23]** that means you should listen from 1 minute and 23 seconds in the track.

## Track Notes

Halloween Eve's Birthday Bash introduces the use of sound effects (or 'FX') to set the scene, minor chords and intervals, and some audio effects – all of which can help create a spooky musical mood!

### Ex. 1: [0:00] Sound FX 1: Establishing atmosphere

Every piece of scary music has to set the scene with **sound effects**. Crashing thunder, crunching footsteps (possibly through a graveyard), and a wolf howling in the distance all set the mood for Halloween thrills.

### Ex. 2: [0:11] Sound FX 2: Building the scene

Instrument choice (or orchestration) can make or break a Halloween scene. The door creaks, and where are we? A church organ plays while underneath a choir hauntingly sings. The setting? Probably a haunted house with a few undead residents howling about. Guaranteed, a kazoo playing the melody would have wrecked this auditory freakshow!

### Ex. 3: [0:14] Minor chord

The four notes repeating in the organ are part of the **harmonic minor scale**. Just enough dissonance to make you cringe. The dissonance is caused by the **minor second**

*interval* between the first two notes of the repeating figure.

### Ex. 4: [0:35] Minor arpeggio on harp

A chord broken up into parts is called an **arpeggio**. In this clip, the harp plays two minor arpeggios followed by two major scale arpeggios. Notice how going from minor to major changes the mood of the harp.

### Ex. 5: [1:23] Minor second intervals

Here is that minor second interval again - the harshest interval in Western music. Know what famous movie uses this interval? Try the Theme from Jaws written by John Williams (of Star Wars fame). The tension is created by the minor second repeating ominously underneath. Perfect for a house full of the undead!

### Ex. 6: [1:45] Pan and Pitch audio effects

**Audio effects** can make a beautiful voice sound downright demented! In this clip, a **pitch bend** wheel lowers and raises the pitch of the voice – listen for the note changing smoothly. Meanwhile the voice gradually moves from one ear to the other, and back again - an effect called **panning**.

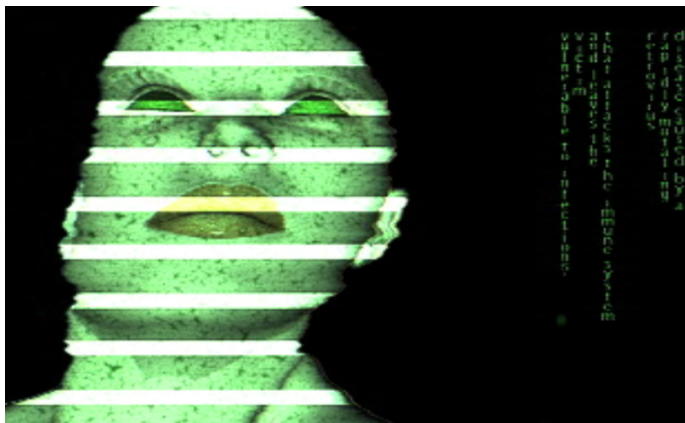
## About the composer

Intermedia composer, percussionist, author, and obsessive sci-fi buff,

**Sabrina Pena Young** composes mind-numbing electroacoustic works heard in Asia, North America, Australia, and Europe.



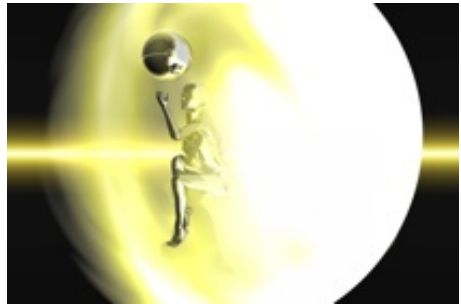
Her music has been heard in film festivals, radio, electronic dance clubs, random boom boxes in France, and as not-so-pleasant background music. Her multimedia works have been performed at venues like the Beijing Conservatory, the International Computer Music Conference, Miramax's Project Greenlight, the Athena Festival, the New York International Independent Film Festival, Art Basil Miami, Turkey's Cinema for Peace, and Pulsefield International Exhibition of Sound Art.





**Origins**, a riveting album of cinematic soundscapes, pulsating rhythms and enigmatic vocals, was released on CD Baby and iTunes in 2008. Origins includes **World Order #1**, a pounding dance piece about nuclear war and **Looking Glass**, a nightmarish musical poem.

Recent projects include **World Order #5**, an apocalyptic tale about the decimation of the human race by a viral mutation written for the Kansas State University percussion ensemble, 3D animation, and electronic music, and the **Creation**, a CGI multimedia oratorio composed for the Millikin University Women's Chorus and percussion ensemble.



Visit Sabrina's website for news and information:

<http://sabinapenayoung.blogspot.com/>

Want more great music? Buy "Origins" here:

<http://www.cdbaby.com/Artist/SabrinaYoung>

Contact Sabrina by email:

[sabrina@EasyEarTraining.com](mailto:sabrina@EasyEarTraining.com)

## Further Training and Support

If you need any help using these tracks to develop your ears come join our discussion forums at:

<http://www.EasyEarTraining.com/Forums>

You can also find support information and links to further training resources at the **Unravelling Music** series homepage:

<http://www.EasyEarTraining.com/UnravellingMusic>

### Want to continue your training?

The first Unravelling Music album, **Introducing Intervals** is the best place to start:

- Learn intervals - even if you don't know music theory!
- 5 special MP3 tracks with 22 supporting audio clips demonstrate the intervals in real use.
- 28-page PDF guide explains everything you need to know. Get started with just a few pages.



<http://www.EasyEarTraining.com/store/introducing-intervals/>