Black Swan Sound

- From the Black Swan
  - Darren Aronovsky (director)
  - Nina (Natalie Portman) loses control of her life as she embraces the role of the “Black Swan”
  - music by Tchaikovsky
  - Craig Henighan (sound designer, editor, re-recording mixer)
  - courtesy Scott Tousley (243 Sp ’11)
  - http://vimeo.com/17717688
Black Swan Sound
Black Swan Sound

- Psychological thriller
- Quest for perfection—Nina “Double”
- Hallucinatory—what’s real/not real
- Director said “be bold”
- Use sound to push the story forward
- both subconsciously and overt
- be “big” then pull it back
Black Swan Sound

- film starts “normal” moves into other world
- Nina sees her double
- breaths/giggles at beginning—a device
- foley
  - bird wings flapping, flesh sounds (tree bark, dirt and rocks)
Black Swan Sound

- Recorded
  - NYC crowds, ballet studio sounds
  - insect sounds

- Kissing Scene
  - throbbing music, breathing/giggle sound

- Camera follows closely in dance scenes (panning)/ sound pans similarly
  - use of surround technology for story
Black Swan Sound

◆ Club Scene
  ● Chemical Brothers (music has Swan Lake in it)
  ● hallucinatory montage visually
    ◆ nina, nina, nina
    ◆ mommy mommy
    ◆ stutter edits

◆ Sound ideas, aesthetics, most important
Functions of music in storytelling

1. establish locale
   - region or country

from “Brick lane”
Functions of music in storytelling

2. symbolic (Jennifer Van Sijll, Cinematic Storytelling)

- Shawshank Redemption
- Mozart: The Marriage of Figaro / "Duettino - Sull'Aria"
- Andy befriends Red
- Will Red follow Andy away from institutionalization to hope
- Red's doubtful Andy can stay the course
- Mid point of the film
Symbolic use of Music
Shawshank Redemption
Symbolic use of Music

Shawshank Redemption

- rebellion
- strength
- beauty in midst of ugliness
- the grand gesture
- the impossible
- redemption
- hope
- change
- not this particular piece, but music itself
Functions of music in Storytelling

3. depict identity or personality
   - suggest gentle or violent person, or evil
Functions of music in storytelling

4. Lyrics as Narrator (Jennifer Van Sijll, Cinematic Storytelling)
   - voice of a character
   - reveal thoughts
   - voice of narrator
   - thematic information
   - presented poetically
Lyrics as Narrator
Apocalypse Now
**this is The End by the Doors**

- This is the end, beautiful friend
- This is the end, my only friend, the end
- Of our elaborate plans, the end
- Of everything that stands, the end
- No safety or surprise, the end
- I’ll never look into your eyes........again
- Can you picture what will be
- So limitless and free
- Desperately in need....of some......stranger’s hand
- In a desperate land
- Lost in a romance, wilderness of pain
- And all the children are insane
- All the children are insane
- Waiting for the summer rain, yeah
"this is The End" by The Doors

- 60's band, Vietnam Era
  - historical anchor
  - nihilistic lyrics
  - critical view of the war--the underbelly
  - inverted sense of right and wrong
  - this is the End---at the beginning
  - we see Martin Sheen upside down
  - Not "literally" about the war
  - cost prohibitive
Functions of music in storytelling

✴ 7. Unifying transition--overlap, lead in, segue
✴ 8. Evoke--atmosphere, feeling, mood