

# Student Assignment E: Asteroid Skirmishes

## Percussion Pictures

Percussion is not just about beating time! It can be used very effectively to paint sound 'pictures'. For example, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, composers used triangles and drums to represent armies, battles, and other military themes.

### Exercise

Imagine you are a composer of film scores. The famous director Lucas McGeorge comes to you with the script for a new blockbuster sci-fi movie. It's called '*Asteroid Skirmishes*'.

What percussion instruments might you use as you create music for the following scenes or shots? Use the descriptions and sample sounds on Sibelius Instruments to help you.

1. A huge space vessel landing at a port, and robot-like soldiers march down the gangway out of the vessel.

---



---

2. The hero runs up steps into an ancient Asian-style temple (guarded by statues of fierce dragons).

---



---

3. A close-up of a single drop of water plopping into a still pond from a leaf.

---



---

4. A long line of slaves, chained together, passing across the screen.

---



---

5. A group of aliens of different shapes and sizes dancing in the square of a colony.

---



---

6. In a cave, a giant spider is sneaking up on the heroine as she sits in front of a fire.

---



---

### Thunderstorm

How would you represent a thunderstorm lashing an old wooden house?

You might have a *bass drum* hit firmly to represent the heavy cracks of thunder, and softer rolls diminishing as the storm passes off into the distance.

For heavy rain, you might use a *snare drum* with very rapid rolls rising and falling in volume as the squalls hit the house.

A *guiro* might be useful to represent the creaking frame as the house rocks back and forth on its foundations.