

Music you will hear

Flaming Red Hair – Howard Shore

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This track is from *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*. It features near the beginning of the film when the Hobbits are celebrating Bilbo Baggins' birthday. It is used to introduce the Hobbits, with the catchy and upbeat nature telling us that these characters are the protagonists (heroes) in the story. The tune is inspired by traditional Celtic folk music (from Wales, Scotland, and Ireland), with the long low notes throughout imitating the drones heard in bagpipe music.

Nocturne from A Midsummer Night's Dream – Felix Mendelssohn

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Mendelssohn wrote music to accompany a performance of the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* written by William Shakespeare, where a prank gone wrong results in a spell being placed on characters to make them fall in love with the wrong people. The *Nocturne* (a romantic piece of music inspired by the night) plays whilst the character's sleep in the woods and the spell is reversed. The solo is played by the French horn, with other instruments mimicking the still of night by playing a drone, and the flutes represent the fairies in the story flying around.

Underneath the Stars – Kate Rusby

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[Lyrics](#)

Underneath the Stars tells the story of meeting someone, falling in love with them, and eventually parting ways, both aware that their time together is limited. The lovers acknowledge that they must each take their own path, even if it means leaving someone they love and care for behind. The song notes that, whilst we can control ourselves and our reactions to situations, we cannot control others and the relationships we form. It reminds us of the importance of treating each other with kindness, even when we must say goodbye to them.

Fare Thee Well – Kate Rusby

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[Lyrics](#)

Fare Thee Well is a song that talks about the need to move on from the past and embrace the future. The opening lines refer to the dawn of a new day, metaphorically representing the start of a new phase of life. The singer is optimistic about the future and believes that the sun will come shining through to guide her to the place she once knew. The phrase "the place I once knew" suggests that the singer has been away or lost for a while and is now ready to go back home or reclaim her former self.

Running Up That Hill (A Deal with God) – Kate Bush

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[Lyrics](#)

Running Up That Hill is a song that was written in 1985, but shot back up to fame in 2022 after being featured in the hit Netflix Show, *Stranger Things*. The song is about a relationship where cracks and problems are beginning to appear, but if they could 'make a deal with God' and switch places, then they would understand each other better and the problems would disappear.

Sosban Fach – Welsh Traditional, Rakhi & Simmy Singh

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[Spotify](#) (Bryn Terfel)

[Lyrics](#)

Sosban Fach (Welsh for "little saucepan") is a traditional Welsh folk song. It is one of the best-known and most often sung songs in the Welsh language. The song is based on a verse written by Mynyddog in 1873 as part of his song *Rheolau yr Aelwyd* ("Rules of the home"). Talog Williams, an accountant from Dowlais, created the song we have today by altering Mynyddog's verse and adding four new verses. The song catalogues the troubles of a housewife.

Prelude for The Witches from *Dido & Aeneas* – Henry Purcell

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[Lyrics](#) (beginning of Act 2)

Dido & Aeneas is an opera written by Henry Purcell. It tells the story of Aeneas, the hero and founder of Rome, who falls in love with Dido, the Queen of Carthage, Tunisia. Three Witches, who hate Dido, send an elf in disguise to convince Aeneas to leave Dido and return to Italy. Heartbroken and betrayed, Dido dies by suicide. This piece of music takes place when we first meet the Witches and they discuss their plan to cause the downfall of Dido by destroying her happiness.

Polska from *Dorotea* – Swedish Traditional, Danish String Quartet

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A Polska is a type of dance that is most popular in Sweden but can also be found in other Nordic countries (Finland, Norway, Estonia, and Denmark). It is a dance that is performed with a partner and we can compare it to a Waltz in typical British ballroom dancing culture. This tune was originally written by Swedish composer called Johan August Andersson who was born near Stockholm and then moved to Dorotea, a small town over 400 miles further north (that's over double the length of Wales!).

Spiegel im Spiegel – Arvo Pärt

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Spiegel im Spiegel means "Mirror in the Mirror", which can be heard in the music as every time we hear a tune that goes up, we then hear it mirrored and go down again. It starts with two notes and adds a note on the end each time it repeats,

creating a seemingly endless melody. Each melody returns home to the same note, which feels like returning home after being away. The piano accompanies the solo like a guardian on every step, helping to guide them.