

# Sound Concept for Macbeth

By Harley Roché  
Sound Designer and Audio Engineer

The overall concept of the show is a world after destruction. We begin the show with a sound tantrum that fades into an abyss with sounds that we don't normally hear or sounds that we have heard, but used in new ways. Electricity is limited. The witches on the other end is eerie and magical. It is from another world, a world that is nightmarish.

- **Lobby**
  - announcement with pre-show announcement hard to hear on the radio
- **Theatre pre-show**
  - Whispers and distortions of Shakespeare lines from other plays, comedies and dramas. \*\*to be recorded with the Shakespeare class.
  - Layered under the lines will be a low rumble that will grow
  - 5 min from curtain we begin to hear the the end of the world. Natural disasters; fire, mudslides, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc. accompanied with airplanes falling, worried whispers, screams in the distance.
  - When the show is read to begin it will be interrupted with thunder and when it actually begins we sit in silence
- **1.1**
  - Then, when the witches enter we hear a creepy underscore.
  - Witches last line echoed back as Macbeths first line throughout the theatre
- **1.2**
  - Alarms (war horns)
  - underscoring for battle
  - David thought-- Duncan says - "What he hath lost, noble Macbeth hath Won ..." Idea of that lingering in the air or amplified or echoed as the transition of the Witch Come in "hath won hath won hath won" or it lowers a few octaves and warps
- **1.3**
  - Once again witches underscore and we hear rolling thunder
  - Sound of underscore fade to silence when Macbeth and Banquou say "Speak I charge you"
- **1.4**
  - At the beginning, we hear a "Duncan's Theme" and it will fade into the camp sounds
  - When they Exit the sound we heard at the beginning comes back but distorted
- **1.5**
  - To get into this scene(indoor) is will be construction sounds and people working and then it will fade into silence
- **1.6**
  - We are taken outside.

- Davids Note - Hautboys or Traveling Band ? Flute or Acoustic Guitar - Oboe sound scape - either birds chirping or wind comes sweeping down the planes to punctuate the text -
- **1.7**
  - Davids Note -Dinners and party offstage (the soundscape coming through - or upstage in Secondary Focus) still we hear them - but then the soundscape of our psychological drama and soliloquy can transform  
“If it were done, when tis done, then twere well it were done quickly...”
    - I hear the sound from the behind the stage but it fade into the theatre as we here the soliloquy with an underscoring to increase anxiety. Possibly heartbeat under the stage
- **2.1**
  - We are back outside
  - When Macbeth is summoned to do we hear a death bell toll
- **2.2**
  - Back inside in Macbeths Chambers.
  - Lady Macbeth believes she hears an owl, but we hear to what is to be death. I am thinking an owl sound that becomes more distorted and ends with a shriek.. a slight jumpscare
- **2.3**
  - In the court yard
- **2.4**
  - We are back outside
- **3.1**
  - Enter Macbeth as KING and Lady, there will be a fanfare through the wrecked speaker, karaoke machine that is garble and then they will use the mic on the platform
- **3.2**
  - Back inside
- **3.3**
  - Back outside
- **3.4**
  - Back inside banquet
- **Intermission**
  - We hear wind and rain and prophetic Quotes from Act 1 that swirl around as a whisper, similar to pre-show, however there are minor chords that accompany the lines
- **3.5**
  - The witches underscore comes back. Hecate's Chamber -Hell
- **3.6**
  - -outside?
- **4.1**
  - Witches Chambers, the sound of underscore and thunder rolling come back
  - When the Cauldron Sinks – Hautboys music comes back

- **4.2**
  - Macduff House
- **4.3**
  - We are in a new Location - Far away from this Survival Camp
- **5.1**
  - Indoors at night. Quiet but eerie.
- **5.4**
  - Outside?
- **5.5**
  - Sound - Famous Line - cue inherent “Ring the Alarum Bell. Blow wind, come wrack. At Least we’ll die with harness on our back.”
    - For this I am thinking the war horn can come back in and the wind picks up.
- **5.6**
  - Malcolm and his team storm the Castle, an underscore(more to come after I see it staged)
- **5.7**
  - Macbeth - fights - kills Young Siward, underscoring (more to come after I see it staged)
- **5.8**
  - Macduff and Macbeth final fight scene
  - Interrupted action/ fighting off stage or upstage or in secondary Focus - Macbeth and Macduff reenter - Macduff kills Macbeth - Carries him off stage
  - Macduff chopping off his head...we hear this.
  - Davids note: When he says “Scone” and we hear the cheers and possibly the image of some glorious city – (for this I am thinking the sound of electricity starting in the distance and or a “perfect world”..pleasant sounds of a peaceful world.
  - The witches underscoring creeps in the perfect world and it interrupted with possibility the sounds of hell as they grab malcoms feet..thinking more hades. This will be our final jumpscare.