

ostinato

– A short, repeated idea. A short, repeated idea. A short, repeated idea.

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An ostinato can be just a rhythm or both rhythm and melody.

Ostinati or ostinatos are used as background accompaniment in music.

Drum set patterns often use ostinati. Queen's song "We Will Rock You" has one of the most famous examples: Boom-Boom-Chick-(rest).

The classic South African song "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" is often referred to by its ostinato melody, "Wimoweh" (originally, "Uyimbube").

Listen for ostinati in your music. There is often more than one happening at the same time, especially in pop music.