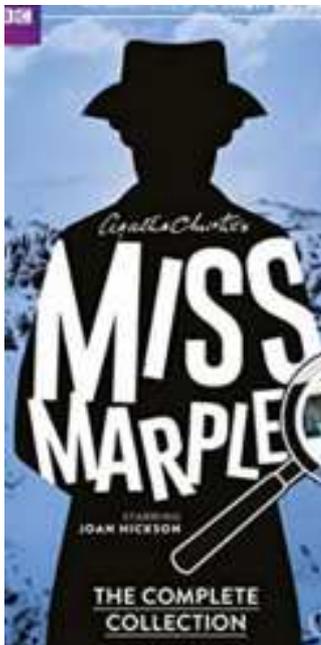


# 1410. Miss Marple Theme

Backgrounds Of S. Radic

**Jane Marple**, better known as **Miss Marple**, is a character in several crime novels and short stories by the English author Agatha Christie (1890-1976). Miss Marple is an elderly lady who works as an astute amateur detective. She investigates in 12 novels and 20 short stories.

**Curriculum vitae.** Miss Marple is in the novels a cultivated, tall, somewhat pale and fragile looking elderly lady with blue eyes who comes from the upper middle class. She seems to be about 65 years old at the time of her first novel appearances in short stories of the 1930s and wears her white hair pinned up under a black lace hood at her first appearance, while she also covers her hands with black lace gloves with half fingers while knitting, her favourite leisure activity. She seems to make a living out of her parents' inheritance, but she has to be very economical. Her father seems to have been the canon of a cathedral. In her childhood she lived in a children's room with mauve irises on the wallpaper, had a sister and was looked after by a German educator. Already at this time she knew how to handle invisible ink, was interested in magic tricks and loved visits to Madame Tussauds wax museum in London. Miss Marple had a grandmother named Clara, a great-aunt named Fanny, a great-uncle named Thomas, who was a retired admiral, an aunt Helen, an uncle Henry, an uncle who was the canon of Chichester Cathedral and another uncle named Thomas who was the canon of Ely.



Miss Marple lives in the fictitious little village of St. Mary Mead, a typical English village in the equally fictitious county of Downshire not far from the larger central town of Much Benham, where the criminal investigation department also resides. Nevertheless, the village is by no means a sleepy nest: in a period of about forty years there were 16 murders - five by poison, two by gunfire, two by drowning, two by



strangulation and five by unexplained causes. In addition, there were four attempted murders by poison, suffocation and blows to the head, as well as five robberies, eight embezzlements and two series of blackmail. They were all solved by Miss Marple.

Dame **Margaret Rutherford**, (1892 -1972) was a British actress. Margaret Rutherford had her first professional stage appearance at the age of 33, she had her breakthrough as a theatre actress beyond the age of 40. Rutherford became famous mainly because of her great comedic talent. Beside her theater work she appeared in more than 50 film and television productions from the 1930's on. She gained lasting fame from the early 1960's through the performance of the quirky amateur detective Miss Marple in the four British movies "16 Uhr 50 ab Paddington", "Der Wachsb Blumenstrauß", "Vier Frauen und ein Mord" and "Mörder ahoi!" by director George Pollock. For her supporting role in the feature Hotel International (1963) she was awarded with the Oscar and the Golden Globe Award.



Twist-Beat (T=140)

The musical score is presented in a standard staff format with four staves: Strings, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into two main sections: Main 1 and Main 2. The Strings part consists of sustained chords. The Piano part features a continuous eighth-note chordal accompaniment in Main 1, which transitions to a more sparse, chordal accompaniment in Main 2. The Bass part has a melodic line in Main 1 and a simpler, fundamental line in Main 2. The Drums play a consistent pattern of eighth notes throughout both sections.

Programming instruction

The twist was a fashion dance in 4/4 time that became popular in the early 1960s and was danced to rock 'n' roll, rhythm and blues, or special twist music. The singer Chubby Checker made this dance popular worldwide with his hits "The Twist" in July 1960 and "Let's Twist Again" in June 1961. A special feature of this couple dance is that the partners do not touch each other while dancing. Twist differs from other music styles that appear at the same time by an even timing between the eighth notes. There is no shuffled rhythm in Twist. (Source: "Twist" research in Wikipedia). So it doesn't surprise me that the composer of "Miss Marple" jumped on this rhythm train in 1961 - and embedded his rather "baroque-like" film music in the time rhythm! The two mains in the above scheme sound in the A and B parts of long, repetitive phrases - in the short, very accentuated sections, they are then accompanied by composed orchestral breaks in "tutti" format, including rhythm - this can only be achieved by the R-synchro arrangement in the style game. The drums play is identical in both Main. In the Main accompaniment, typical, continuous piano eighth chords are played in Main 1 - in Main 2, on the other hand, only emphasized "2+" and "4"-counts are played as chords. The Main1 bass phrase over 1-3-5 then remains in Main2 only on the 1 (fundamental). The rich melodic action lacks further accompanying phrases.