
SUMMARY

THE ROLE OF MUSIC IN *THE PIANO*, A FILM DIRECTED BY JANE CAMPION

The Piano is a romantic drama that takes place on the west coast of New Zealand in the middle of the 19th century. The main character is a mute pianist who comes to New Zealand with her daughter to enter into an agreed marriage with an English landlord. From a musicologists point of view, the film is unique in many ways: this is the only movie, since the time of silent films, in which the main actor has been awarded an Oscar for a main role in which she has remained completely silent. In the movie the main actress (Holly Hunter) performs all of her instrumental parts herself and uses sign language to communicate. The soundtrack of the movie is among the best-selling albums of popular music in the world. The plot explores the position of music, women and women in music in the nineteenth century, but also strongly underlines the role of music in communication, with the main actress using only sign language and music to communicate. This paper explores the film as a critique of both the European patriarchal system and the colonial system and relations with the natives. It also explores the process of women's self-determination, changes in mother-daughter relationship dynamics and the change in the dynamics of the main characters in the film. The main foci of the research of these discourses is the use of the instrument (piano) as a symbol and the use of music as a means of communication. The paper also includes analysis of the entire soundtrack of the movie.

Keywords: film soundtrack, music as communication, piano, emancipation of women, colonialism