

## The Four-

"The Four" is inspired by Marvel's first family, The Fantastic Four ©. Throughout the overture, the theme of working as a team is highlighted. But even though there is strength in numbers, a team is only as strong as the sum of its parts. Mr. Fantastic, The Thing, Human Torch and Invisible Woman are the members that make up The Fantastic Four ©. While each member's ability and role greatly varies, they are able to unite in the face of conflict to defeat any face of evil. The overture is separated into four distinct sections. While sections 1, 3 and 4 focus on unity, section 2 highlights the uniqueness of each hero. In section 2, the members' themes fall into this order:

Mr. Fantastic - A leader in every sense of the word, Reed Richards is a brilliant scientist who possesses the ability of stretching any limb (like rubber) in order to rescue, trap or defeat his foes. His theme consists of bombastic brass and elastic snare to properly portray the qualities of his leadership and springy power.

The Thing - A monster on the outside; a person on the inside. Ben Grimm, a former US test pilot and astronaut, met Reed Richards and the other members through their previous encounters at NASA. Due to events that unfolded during a mission in space, the four's world turned upside down. Each member received powers that would only change their abilities. While this remained true for Ben, his newfound power also affected his appearance. Not in a way that he accepts. Now with skin made of rocks and a thunderous voice, Ben Grimm has become "The Thing". Though he is the muscle and brawn of the group, The Thing is conflicted at his core. Even though he believes in the ideals of being a hero, The Thing despises how his abilities have led him to appear as a monstrous figure. Possessing great strength, The Thing can defeat his enemy with a single, crushing blow. To portray his strength and heroic attributes, The Thing's theme consists of mallet strikes and a thumping timpani. In order to convey his inner-conflict, mellow french horns and piano play as a deep synth underlines the melody.

Human Torch - Reckless! Self-Centered! Hotheaded! Brother of Susan Storm, Johnny Storm is a ladies-man who lives for the thrills. Known to be a narcissist, Johnny originally made decisions that served in his best interest. But after he gains the ability of submerging his body in flames with a single thought, he begins to understand what it means to be selfless. But just because he accepts his role as the face of the team, does not mean he has totally shed his previous characteristics. His theme consists of electric guitar and electrifying percussion to portray his immense energy and his playful attitude towards being a hero.

Invisible Woman - A woman of science and reason, Susan Storm is a gifted scientist and a founding member of The Fantastic Four ©. Before becoming Invisible Woman, Susan Storm was an inspiring actress who met Reed Richards during her college days. Now married to Mr. Fantastic, Invisible Woman is able to render herself invisible and create covert force-fields to attack or defend. Though she is the most reserved member of the group, she is the most powerful. Ironically, she feels her voice and ideas are often invisible to the other members of the group despite her immense power. Her theme is the most layered in order to portray her reserved

power and how her voice (the soothing melody of a violin) is difficult to hear compared to the other instruments' voices.

As for the rest of the other three sections, all instruments pertaining to each member are on full display and work together as one. This is "The Four".