

is signposted that this music should run parallel to scenes of passion in the play, such as Stella's lustful reunion with Stanley in Scene 3 and Blanche's rape in Scene 9.

In contrast, the Varsouviana polka is used by Williams to highlight themes of death. This music is heard only by Blanche. When the audience hears the polka, they hear Blanche's mind. The music is a window into her mind that has been opened for spectators. The Varsouviana polka is associated with the terrible memory of Blanche's husband's suicide that began her descent into insanity.

*“then the polka resumes in a major key.” and “the polka tune fades out.”*

(Williams)

In Scene Six, the polka music is playing when Blanche is relating to Mitch the story of how her young husband killed himself because she told him that his homosexuality disgusted her. Whenever she thinks about her husband or feels emotionally threatened, Blanche hears the music of the polka in her head. When Mitch embraces Blanche at the end of Scene Six, the polka fades out. This suggests that Blanche views Mitch as an escape from the past she can't seem to leave behind. Furthermore, the fact that Blanche must wait to hear the gunshot in her head for the music to stop, highlights her increasing instability.

Still as a part of the setting, the use of the locomotives passing besides the building is a good example of the association of light and sound. Although this sound is evoked many times in the play, it is most significant in Scene Six when Blanche narrates the tragic story of her marriage. The thunderous noise of the locomotive is heard and its headlight glare onto the scene. The loud noise accompanied by its powerful headlight paradoxically symbolizes the “blinding light” of love that briefly shined on Blanche's life before disappearing into the darkness, much like a locomotive.

The Varsouviana polka is a cheerful tune that could be associated with a merry-go-round's music, and so, having it play in a Gothic type drama is eerie. But it sets the tone of Blanche being unstable as she can hear strange, unnerving music that no one else seems to hear. And like the way she cannot escape the crushing guilt of feeling responsible for his suicide, she is incapable of escaping the music either.