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Film Composition, Creation, and Realization of Three Original Shorts

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Los Angeles

Film Composition, Creation, and Realization
of Three Original Shorts

A thesis submitted in partial satisfaction
of the requirements for the degree Master of Arts
in Music

by

Stephanie Celeste Economou

2014

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Film Composition, Creation, and Realization of Three Original Shorts

by

Stephanie Celeste Economou

Master of Arts in Music

University of California, Los Angeles, 2014

Professor Michael Dean, Co-Chair

Professor Peter Golub, Co-Chair

Film Composition, Creation, and Realization of Three Original Shorts is comprised of three musical compositions accompanying original short films created by UCLA filmmakers of the School of Theater, Film, and Television.

The score to “Futurebook” employs an instrumentation of woodwinds, strings, harp, and percussion. The mystical and comedic spirit of the film demands an imbalanced, yet intriguing mystery which envelopes the score with various orchestral colors.

The sound-design-driven underscore of “Heart-Ache” mimics the bare, monochromatic style of the animation. The lack of leading thematic material pushes the boundaries of other musical elements, with a directed focus on carving out sonic space and sculpting an illusory environment in which the viewer can experience the picture.

“Te Quiero Un Chingo” requires a deep sense of emotional and cultural connection to the on-screen characters, which is reflected stylistically through repeating melodic and motivic figures. This musical score explores character themes, while simultaneously balancing the intimate and delicate relationships with a hybrid electronic-acoustic score.

The thesis of Stephanie Celeste Economou is approved.

Ian Krouse

David Lefkowitz

Michael Dean, Committee Co-Chair

Peter Golub, Committee Co-Chair

University of California, Los Angeles

2014

Stephanie Economou

MA Thesis Composition for Visual Media

“Film Score Composition, Creation, and Realization of Three Original Shorts”

Cue Sheets

FUTUREBOOK Directed by Annie Pace

CUE #	CUE TITLE	TIMECODE	LENGTH	INSTRUMENTATION	WRITTEN	BUSSED	RECORDED	MASTERED
1m1	Futurebook Discovery	01:07;00-02:01;01	00:54;01	Bass Clarinet, Oboe, English Horn, Clarinet, Strings, Percussion	✓	✓	✓	✓
1m2	School of Mime/ End Credits	02:26;26-03:35;14	1:09;18	Bass Clarinet, Oboe, English Horn, Clarinet, Strings, Horns, Trombones, Tuba, Percussion	✓	✓	✓	✓
				TOTAL MUSIC TO BE RECORDED:	~2:03			

HEART-ACHE Animated by Sam Grinberg

CUE #	CUE TITLE	TIMECODE	LENGTH	INSTRUMENTATION	WRITTEN	BUSSED	RECORDED	MASTERED
1m1	Bedroom Isolation	00:19-00:42	00:23	Electronics, Cello	✓	✓	✓	✓
1m2	Dog Emerges	00:47-1:37	00:50	Electronics, Cello	✓	✓	✓	✓
1m3	City Construction	01:38-1:51	00:13	Electronics, Cello	✓	✓	✓	✓
1m4	Surreal Falling	02:02-2:33	00:31	Electronics, Cello	✓	✓	✓	✓
1m5	A Helping Hand to Crossroads	02:35-3:45	01:10	Electronics, Cello	✓	✓	✓	✓
				TOTAL MUSIC TO BE RECORDED:	~3:00			

TE QUIERO UN CHINGO Directed by Annie Pace

CUE #	CUE TITLE	TIMECODE	LENGTH	INSTRUMENTATION	WRITTEN	BUSSED	RECORDED	MASTERED
1m1	Main Title	00:12;00-00:44;18	00:32;18	Acoustic Gtr, Upright Bass, Shakers, Congas, Bongos, Claps, Castanets	✓	✓	✓	✓
1m2	Anticipation	01:50;05-02:19;00	00:29;05	Synths	✓	✓	✓	✓
1m3	Abuelita	02:33;07-02:56;12	00:23;05	Acoustic Gtr, Upright Bass, Shakers, Congas, Bongos, Claps, Castanets	✓	✓	✓	✓
1m4	Go Back to Mexico	06:15;16-06:48;05	00:32;19	Acoustic Gtr, Strings, Synths	✓	✓	✓	✓
1m5	Never Skip a Turn	07:05;28-08:40;08	01:35;10	Piano, Strings, Synths	✓	✓	✓	✓
1m6	She Knew Too	09:01;13-09:41;19	00:40;06	Acoustic Gtr, Strings	✓	✓	✓	✓
1m7	Te Quiero Un Chingo	09:23;09-09:39;29	00:16;20	Acoustic Gtr, Piano, Upright Bass, Shakers, Congas, Bongos, Claps, Castanets	✓	✓	✓	✓
				TOTAL MUSIC TO BE RECORDED:	~2:58			

Scoring Session 1: Saturday, May 24th: 5:30PM-7:30PM
Instrument: Cello
Film Title: “Heart-Ache”

Time Slot	Instruments to Record	Number of Minutes to Record
5:30PM-7:30PM	Cello	~3:00 plus textural overdubs

Scoring Session 2: Tuesday, May 27th: 3:15PM-7:45PM
UCLA School of Theater Film and Television Scoring Stage
Instruments: Acoustic Guitar, Piano, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Oboe, English Horn
Film Titles: “Te Quiero Un Chingo”, “Futurebook”

Time Slot	Instruments to Record	Number of Minutes to Record
3:15PM-6:15PM	Acoustic Guitar	2:58
6:15PM-7:45PM	Bass Clarinet, Clarinet, Oboe, English Horn	1:59
TOTAL MUSIC TO BE RECORDED		~5:01

Futurebook

Stephanie Economou

3

IMI Futurebook Discovery

Bizarre, yet engrossing ♩ = 81

30

Ob.

E. Hn.

Bb. Cl.

B. Cl.

F. Hn. I

F. Hn. II

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

B. D.

Cym.

Shk.

Tr.

Vib.

Glk.

Cel.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. I

Vc. II

D.B. I

D.B. II

mp

mf

mp

p

mf

pizz.

p

pp

sim.

pp

42

Ob.

E Hn.

Bb Cl.

B. Cl.

F Hn. I

F Hn. II

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

B. D.

Cym.

Shk.

Tr.

Vib.

Glk.

Cel.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. I

Vc. II

D.B. I

D.B. II

p

mf

p

mf

p

mf

mp

mf

p

mf

pizz.

mf

mf

mf

50

Ob.

E Hn.

Bb Cl.

B. Cl.

F Hn. I

F Hn. II

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

B. D.

Cym.

Shk.

Tr.

Vib.

Glk.

Cel.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. I

Vc. II

D.B. I

D.B. II

Im2

School of Mime/End Credits

58 Quirky, unhinged ♩ = 81

Ob.

E Hn.

Bb Cl.

B. Cl.

F Hn. I

F Hn. II

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

B. D.

Cym.

Shk.

Tr.

Vib.

Glk.

Cel.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. I

Vc. II

D.B. I

D.B. II

sus. cym
soft mallets

lv.

mp

mf

p

mp

mf

p

mf

pizz.

mf

pizz.

mf

mp

mf

Slow cluster slides

p

mf

sim.

67

9

Ob. *f* *ff* *mp*

E Hn. *f* *ff* *mf*

Bb Cl. *f* *ff* *mp*

B. Cl. *f* *ff* *mf*

F Hn. I *f* *ff*

F Hn. II *f* *ff*

Tbn. *f* *ff*

B. Tbn. *f* *ff*

B. D. *mf*

Cym. *f* *ff* L.V.

Shk. *f* *ff*

Tr.

Vib. *ff* *mf*

Glk. *f* *mf*

Cel.

Hp. *f* *ff*

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf* *mp*

Vla. Div. *mf* *ff* *pizz*

Vc. I *mf*

Vc. II *mf*

D.B. I

D.B. II

77

Ob. *p*

E Hn. *mp*

Bb Cl.

B. Cl. *mf* *p*

F Hn. I

F Hn. II *mf*

Tbn. *mf* *mp*

B. Tbn. *mf* *mp*

B. D.

Cym. *mp* L.V.

Shk. *mp*

Tr. *p*

Vib.

Glk. *mp*

Cel.

Hp.

Vln. I *mp* *8vb*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla.

Vc. I

Vc. II

D.B. I *pp*

D.B. II *pp*

Slow cluster slides

Te Quiero Un Chingo

Directed by Annie Pace

IMI Main Title

Stephanie Economou

Energetic, with bounce ♩ = 76

Acoustic Guitar 1

Acoustic Guitar 2

Acoustic Guitar 3

Acoustic Guitar 4

Shakers

Congas & Bongos

Guiro

Castanets

Claps

Piano

Synth Pad

Violin I

Violin II

Cello

Double Bass

7

Ac. Gtr. 1

Guitar chords should be quickly strummed

Ac. Gtr. 2

mp

mf

mp

f

Ac. Gtr. 3

mp

mf

mf

f

Ac. Gtr. 4

mf

f

Shk.

Cng. & Bng.

Gro.

Csts.

Clps.

Snth.

Vln. I

Vc.

D.B.

pizz.

mf

sim.

3

4

3

4

14

12 3 5

Ac. Gtr. 1 *f*

Ac. Gtr. 2 *p* *mf*

Ac. Gtr. 3 *p* *mp*

Ac. Gtr. 4 *p* *mf*

Shk. *mp*

Cng. & Bng *mp*

Gro.

Csts.

Clps.

Snth.

Vln. I

Vc.

D.B.

3 4 5

4 4

16

Im2
Anticipation

This musical score is for the song "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel. It features a variety of instruments arranged in staves from top to bottom:

- Acoustic Guitars (Ac. Gtr.):** Four staves, each with a treble clef.
- Shk. (Shamisen):** One staff with a double bar line symbol.
- Cng. & Bng. (Congas & Bongos):** One staff with a double bar line symbol.
- Gro. (Drum):** One staff with a double bar line symbol.
- Csts. (Cymbals):** One staff with a double bar line symbol.
- Clps. (Claps):** One staff with a double bar line symbol.
- Piano (Pn):** Two staves, one with a treble clef and one with a bass clef.
- Snth. (Synthesizer):** Two staves, one with a treble clef and one with a bass clef.
- Vln. I (Violin I):** Two staves, one with a treble clef and one with a bass clef.
- Vc. (Viola):** One staff with a bass clef.
- D.B. (Double Bass):** One staff with a bass clef.

The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, and dynamic markings like *p* (piano). A large bracket on the left side groups the first six instrumental staves (Ac. Gtr., Shk., Cng. & Bng., Gro., Csts., Clps.). The piano part shows a complex arpeggiated figure in the right hand starting at measure 6. The synthesizer part has a melodic line in the right hand and a supporting line in the left hand. The string section (Vln. I, Vc., D.B.) provides harmonic support throughout the piece.

Im3 Abuelita

75 **Excitedly, with spunk** ♩ = 96

Ac. Gtr. 1: *mf* (measures 75-78)

Ac. Gtr. 2: *mp* (measures 75-78), *mf* (measures 79-80)

Ac. Gtr. 3: *mp* (measures 75-78), *mf* (measures 79-80)

Ac. Gtr. 4: *mf* (measures 75-78), *f* (measures 79-80)

Shk.: (measures 75-80)

Cng. & Bng.: *mf* (measures 75-80)

Gro.: (measures 75-80)

Csts.: *mf* (measures 75-80)

Clps.: *mf* (measures 75-80)

Pn.: (measures 75-80)

Snth.: (measures 75-80)

Vln. I: (measures 75-80)

Vc.: (measures 75-80)

D.B.: *mf* (measures 75-80), *pizz.* (measure 79), *sim.* (measure 80)

79

Ac. Gtr. 1 *f* *mf*³

Ac. Gtr. 2 *mp* *f*

Ac. Gtr. 3 *mf* *f*

Ac. Gtr. 4 *mf*

Shk. *mf* *mp*

Cng. & Bng. *mf* *mp*

Gro.

Csts. *mf*

Clps.

Snth.

Vln. I 3 4

Vc.

D.B.

82

Ac. Gtr. 1

Ac. Gtr. 2

Ac. Gtr. 3

Ac. Gtr. 4

Shk.

Cng. & Bng.

Gro.

Csts.

Clps.

Snth.

Vln. I

Vc.

D.B.

mp

f

ff

mf

f

5

4

5

4

This musical score is for the song "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel. It is a piano and guitar arrangement. The score is written for 12 staves, grouped into four systems of three staves each. The instruments are: Acoustic Guitar 1 (Ac. Gtr. 1), Acoustic Guitar 2 (Ac. Gtr. 2), Acoustic Guitar 3 (Ac. Gtr. 3), Acoustic Guitar 4 (Ac. Gtr. 4), Shaker (Shk.), Congas and Bongos (Cng. & Bng.), Grooves (Gro.), Castanets (Csts.), Claps (Clps.), Piano (Pn.), Synthesizer (Snth.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The key signature is one flat (Bb), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into two main sections by a double bar line. The first section starts with a piano (p) dynamic marking. The second section starts with a forte (f) dynamic marking. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, key signatures, time signatures, and dynamic markings. The piano part is written in a simple, melodic style, while the guitar parts provide harmonic support. The shaker, congas, and bongos provide a steady rhythmic accompaniment. The castanets and claps add a percussive element. The violin and cello provide a melodic line, and the double bass provides a low-frequency accompaniment.

im5 Never Skip a Turn

Free, poignant
I (unmetered, without pulse)

Ac. Gtr. 1

Ac. Gtr. 2

Ac. Gtr. 3

Ac. Gtr. 4

Shk.

Cng. & Bng.

Gro.

Csts.

Clps.

Snth.

Vln. I

Vc.

D.B.

The musical score is arranged in a system of staves. The top section includes four acoustic guitar staves (Ac. Gtr. 1-4), a shaker (Shk.), congas and bongoes (Cng. & Bng.), grooves (Gro.), cymbals (Csts.), and claps (Clps.). Below these are the synthesizer (Snth.) and violin I (Vln. I) staves, followed by violin C (Vc.) and double bass (D.B.) staves. The synthesizer and violin I parts feature dynamic markings: *p* (piano) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The score is written in a minimalist style with many rests and some melodic lines for the synthesizer and violin I.

179

Ac. Gtr. 1

Ac. Gtr. 2

Ac. Gtr. 3

Ac. Gtr. 4

Shk.

Cng. & Bng.

Gro.

Csts.

Clps.

Snth.

Vln. I

Vc.

D.B.

mp

183

Ac. Gtr. 1

Ac. Gtr. 2

Ac. Gtr. 3

Ac. Gtr. 4

Shk.

Cng. & Bng.

Gro.

Csts.

Clps.

mp

mp

Snth.

mp

Vln. I

Vc.

D.B.

193

Ac. Gtr. 1

Ac. Gtr. 2

Ac. Gtr. 3

Ac. Gtr. 4

Shk.

Cng. & Bng

Gro.

Csts.

Clps.

Snth.

Vln. I

Vc.

D.B.

sub *p* *mf* *mp* *p*

204

Ac. Gtr. 1

Ac. Gtr. 2

Ac. Gtr. 3

Ac. Gtr. 4

Shk.

Cng. & Bng.

Gro.

Csts.

Clps.

subito *pp* *mf* *p*

p

Reverse electric
gtr effect

mp

Vln. I

Vc.

D.B.

2/2

Ac. Gtr. 1 19

Ac. Gtr. 2 19

Ac. Gtr. 3 19

Ac. Gtr. 4 19

Shk. 19

Cng. & Bng 19

Gro. 19

Csts. 19

Clps. 19

19

19

Snth. 19

19

Vln. I 19

19

Vc. 19

D.B. 19

2
4

2
4

im6 She Knew Too

Nostalgic ♩ = 52

231

Ac. Gtr. 1

Ac. Gtr. 2

Ac. Gtr. 3

Ac. Gtr. 4

Shk.

Cng. & Bng.

Gro.

Csts.

Clps.

Snth.

Vln. I

Vc.

D.B.

p

pp

mf

mp

p

p

arco

p

mf

p

Upbeat, hopeful ♩ = 77

236

Ac. Gtr. 1 *mf*

Ac. Gtr. 2 *mp*

Ac. Gtr. 3 *pp*

Ac. Gtr. 4

Shk.

Cng. & Bng.

Gro.

Csts.

Clps.

Snth.

Vln. I

Vc.

D.B.

3 2 4 2 3

4 4 4 4 4

sub *p* *mp* *mf* *pp*

Im7
Te Quiero Un Chingo

Energetic ♩ = 83

This musical score is for the track "The Day After Tomorrow" from the album "The Day After Tomorrow" by The Lumineers. The score is arranged for a full band, including acoustic guitars, percussion, and strings. The tempo is marked as 242, and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into four measures, with the first measure being a whole rest, the second measure being a half rest, and the third and fourth measures being quarter notes. The acoustic guitars (Ac. Gtr. 1, 2, 3, 4) play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes, with the first guitar playing a melody. The percussion (Shk., Cng. & Bng, Gro., Csts., Clps.) provides a steady beat, with the conga and bongo playing a pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes. The strings (Vln. I, Vc., D.B.) play a simple harmonic pattern, with the violin I playing a melody and the double bass playing a bass line. The score is written in a key of D major, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked as 242, and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into four measures, with the first measure being a whole rest, the second measure being a half rest, and the third and fourth measures being quarter notes. The acoustic guitars (Ac. Gtr. 1, 2, 3, 4) play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes, with the first guitar playing a melody. The percussion (Shk., Cng. & Bng, Gro., Csts., Clps.) provides a steady beat, with the conga and bongo playing a pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes. The strings (Vln. I, Vc., D.B.) play a simple harmonic pattern, with the violin I playing a melody and the double bass playing a bass line. The score is written in a key of D major, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#).

246

Ac. Gtr. 1 *ff*

Ac. Gtr. 2 *f*

Ac. Gtr. 3 *f*

Ac. Gtr. 4 *mf*

Shk. *f*

Cng. & Bng. *f*

Gro.

Csts. *ff*

Clps. *ff*

8va

ff

ff

ff

Snth.

Vln. I

Vc.

D.B. *sim.* *ff*

3 4 2 4 4