



**Summer Music Studies 2018
Pre-Assignment and Materials Information**

MMED/PMED 725 Lights, Camera, Learning! Video Projects in Music Education

Dr. Scott Watson, Instructor

Pre-Course Assignment [4-5 hours; 50 points]

The pre-course assignment for this class involves two components: 1) Searching YouTube (or elsewhere) for a film or television scene which uses music effectively, and 2) Reflecting in journal-style writing on the approach used by the film's director and composer.

PART 1: SEARCHING ONLINE FOR AN EXEMPLARY SCENE

Look for a scene, or excerpt from a scene, online that is approximately 3:00-5:00 mins. in length that you feel uses music really well to amplify the dramatic intent. The number of videos hosted on YouTube is truly vast so it may take you some time previewing videos until you find a scene you feel is worthy of our attention and your analysis. ***Note the URL of your video; you'll need to include this in your written reflection.*** By the way, you may choose to work with a 3:00-5:00 ***excerpt*** of a longer video if you like as well. In that case, also note the start-end time of the video excerpt (i.e. 3:45-7:05).

As you screen your chosen scene, complete the questions listed in the Video Scoring Journal text below.

PART 2: REFLECT THOUGHTFULLY IN WRITING ABOUT HOW MUSIC IS USED IN THE SCENE

I'd like you to pay attention to several aspects of how music is used in your scene. Make note of things such as:

1. Your name and the date.
2. URL of the video. If applicable, indicate start-stop time for video excerpt.
3. What is the title of the film or title/episode of the TV show, and the "title" of the scene? If the video does not give a title to the scene, please name the scene yourself (i.e. "Indy Attacked in the Marketplace" or "Batman and Joker Up the Cathedral").
4. Who is the film's (or TV show's) director and the film's (or TV show's) composer?

5. Is the music original, arranged, borrowed (existing music licensed for use in the scene), public domain, some combination of these, or something else?
6. What instruments or performing forces are used in the scene?
7. Does the music help to place the scene in a certain place and/or time in some way? How?
8. Is the music “event driven” (follows closely and analogously events in the scene, may have musical shifts and changes) or “continuous” (more concerned with the overall mood/tone of the scene and therefore is mostly consistent or even repetitive), some combination, or something else?
9. What compositional devices do you perceive are at work to cause the viewer/listener to respond emotionally in one way or another? Examples of compositional devices might be use of pedal point to draw us into a scene or build anticipation; use of strident dissonance (like that famous shower scene in the film, Psycho!) to shock us; motion from minor to major mode to reflect a move from despair to optimism by a character; use of a leitmotif (such as the Indiana Jones Raider’s March theme) to signal a character’s role in a scene; use of silence to get our attention; use of crescendo, an increase in instrumental texture, and a harmonic suspension that resolves to build up to a couple’s first kiss, etc., etc.
10. Any other personal impressions you have.

SUBMISSION

Create a Google Doc with your responses to the ten (10) questions/items listed above. Copy and paste the question from this doc into your own doc, then type your answers for each question. ***Be sure you include the URL (web address) for your scene!***

Share your assignment with your instructor, Dr. Scott Watson, at: drscottwatson@gmail.com. Be sure to adjust the “share” settings so that I can see it. I recommend the setting “Share with anyone with the link.” Although I prefer you use Google Docs, if you are uncomfortable with that you may type up your responses in MS Word and email that file to me (same email address).

If you register late and/or are unable to complete and turn in this assignment by the start of class, you may still submit it for full credit up until 8:30 a.m. on Thursday (the last day) the week of the class. **After that, no credit will be awarded for this “Pre-Course” assignment.**

LINK: <http://bit.ly/2svprwi>