

THE FILMMAKING PROCESS

Checking to see if you are on track



Does the emotional quality of your music fit the scene?

Music for film has many well worn and defined conventions. Even though we, as composers, strive to reinvent the wheel, audiences will expect us to use traditional musical effects/styles when accompanying scenes. It is in this way music will help tell the story.

CONTEXT IS EVERYTHING-
to be effective in writing music for film you have to understand the story that is being told!

Directors watch LOTS of movies.
To establish a common frame of reference learn to use musical examples from classic movies to communicate effectively with your director.
Straying to far away from convelnal norms is only possible if the filmmaker is open to new ideas.

Are you serving the dramatic needs of the story?

More times than not music will inform the audience of emotions that are not seen on screen. Recurring themes help provide continuity and emotional context for the audience.



Does your cue fit the scene?

Normally the director has final say over how a film is edited(with input from producer, editor, studio). Composers are expected to write music that "fits" the cut. Our challenge is to be musical while accomodating timings that are out of our control.

Forcing an idea will only cause frustration resulting in a subpar effort.
Let the picture tell you what is needed regarding tempo and emotional context

