

'Up' Film Score

Set by:

Martyn Ware

Set for:

A challenge to see who can come up with the best re-score for the flashback scene from 'up'

My thought process:

The scene is widely regarded as one of the most emotional moments in all of the Disney movies. As a Disney film I decided to stick with conventional harmonies as opposed to using frequent 7ths and 9ths as I felt a less ambiguous harmony represented the mood more. The melodies I composed are also fairly conventional with no experimental notes or dissonances. As a Disney film I felt that the melodies used needed to give a clear representation of the mood in the picture. As the films are primarily aimed at Children the music for each scene needs to be unobtrusive and almost 'expected' as it were. However, as opposed to the original soundtrack that used different melodies for different mood, I decided to adopt a classical approach and use variants of the same motifs. In my opinion this appeals to the subconscious more as even if the listener registers it or not, the brain will recognise the patterns, with the gradual saddening of the melodies adding to the emotion of the scene. The key part for me was linking the melody of the first time the couple go up the hill with the second time where she can't. As you will see in the clip, the music for the second time is far less energetic with much more sonorous harmonies. The other aspect I focused on was instrument placement as instruments often have stock roles. Strings are prevalent throughout due to their ability to create a mood, and woodwind is added in the 'cloud scene' due to their airy quality and also added in parts to add expression to the strings.