

Phillips _S_ Development _Element 1

(Brief 1) 'All One of a Kind'

From: [Damian Counsell](#)
Sent: 02 May 2020 13:38
To: [Steve Phillips](#)
Subject: that ad soundtrack

Hi Steve

Geek work crisis looks to be over for now! So I am catching up with music work.

I have just listened to your latest idea a couple of times, and, by weird coincidence, I was at a trade show at the NEC yesterday and someone was telling me about how her company---who develop complete "packaging solutions" for manufacturers---always has trouble finding royalty-free sync music for their ads. She has sent me links to two of them. The first one is a really well made ad let down by a weak soundtrack. (She told me that they later got rights to use a Stevie Wonder song gratis because there was a charity involved.) You have to scroll down the page to play the Vimeo video:

<https://freethebirds.com/thoughts/post/clarity-co-film/>

Anyway, your idea struck me as being in the right emotional space. We should chat about it. I think this could be a good direct connection. If we can offer them a couple of examples of "Gospely" "inspirational" soundtracks, they might bite.

all the best
Damian

ELEMENT 3_BRIEF 1_ITERATION

All 1 Of a Kind:

From the feedback received and having listed to the mix again; I could hear alterations that would potentially improve the overall quality and feel of the track. Namely, taking out the vocal right at the start of track, performing edits to the outro vocal, and adjusting the EQ and overall tonal balance of the track. Thack now feels much livelier and sounds better balanced.

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(Brief 2) 'Project 4' & 'Grange Hill'

From: [Damian Counsell](#)

Sent: 12 August 2020 22:03

To: [Steve Phillips](#)

Subject: that old brief

Hi Steve

I can't find an email about this, because I'm pretty sure we only discussed it over the phone; but, if I remember rightly, Simon Evans---white, middle-aged, male, relatively conservative stand-up comedian who used to voice that fox in the beer adverts on the TV and now appears on various panel shows and radio documentaries---was looking for something that could play over each episode of an online interview series (now he can't do live gigs).

The template he had in mind was something a bit cheeky/upbeat. Can be TV film tune type thing with a beat. 3-4 mins in duration but can also be edited for use in different sections/sequencies.

For that other thing we were working on, I have shared the frozen-down synth tracks (apart from some kind of arpeggiator part that I can't freeze because it runs on an embedded instance of FL Studio) and exported the vocal tracks to make an OMF of that film soundtrack sample idea. And I've uploaded the OMF to the shared Tincture folder on Google Drive. You should be able to see and download it anyway, but I'll send you a direct link to this Gmail address.

all the best
Damian

ELEMENT 3 _ BRIEF 2_ITERATIONS

Grange Hill:

Again, taking the feedback as the basis for alterations and improvements to the track I believe the results achieve shows the track in a much better light. The drums now sit better in the mix and forms a solid bed that supports the bass creating a much tighter rhythm section. The drum kit used has been replaced with a more punchier sounding kit that sits quite high in the mix. The lead instrument sits tighter in the mix, is less dominant making the track feel less cluttered. Overall, the mix and mastering I feel is much improved.

Come-In:

An alternative track added to this brief.

Project 4:

Thank you for the positive feedback to this track. On reflection, I had noticed that the drums and finger snaps were too loud in the mix and thought because only demo quality was needed, I had not really spent the time to adjust these levels. In hindsight, I can fully appreciate the massive difference paying attention to detail, and addressing issues can make towards the overall success and enjoyment of a track.

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(Brief 3) 'Angry'

Brief of the week

WEEK 2 Task:

- Write a short piece of music (around 2 minutes), that evokes the emotion of Anger.

ELEMENT 3_ BRIEF 3_ ITERETATION

The positive feedback is very much appreciated, thank you! Vocal samples have been added to track along with a couple of sound effects at the start and ending of the track. The issues mentioned with bass have been addressed and over feel and positioning within the mix feels better. The overall mix and is tweaked with adding a clearer tonal balance to track.

Having had the opportunity to re-visit this track again, new ideas have sprung-up for a more melodic vocal arrangement and part. The new vocal arrangement would also affect the song structure and creating variances in dynamic and movements withing the songs overall arrangement.

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(Brief 4) Thought the Wrong Thing, Free & Broken Heart

On Tue, 14 Jul 2020, 15:49 steve Phillips, <stevephillips017@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi Damian. That is great news. Talk to you soon!

On Tue, 14 Jul 2020, 01:47 Damian Counsell, <counsell@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi Steve

I think I might have got us some paid work. The director of this National Youth Academy Film has said she would like us to do the soundtrack, and she is going to have a meeting with the producer to confirm it.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/intrusion-film>

They originally tried to raise £3K to fund it, but did better than that, so they're now going for £11K. Right now, they're at £8K. She says that we will definitely get paid. She likes the electronic feel of the first thought. The film is dystopian, but it's also a comedy, so she said we should check out a band called Moon Hooch as a musical reference point for the funny bits.

I have to drive Oop North to Liverpool tomorrow, but will be in touch.

(As you suggested I used that Rode mic on the vox for this and it has turned out much mellower, so I'll be going with that from now on.)

all the best
Damian

Positive comments and feedback. Thank you!

Thought the Wrong Thing:

Having taken on board the positive feedback; I thought I would create minor tweaks and improvements to the basic sound of the track. I also felt that the track would be better with an extended section during the intro.

Free:

Free is an added track going with this brief and takes a different slant on the Dystopian theme.

Broken Heart:

Again, showing slightly more emotional interpretation of the theme.