

Dissertation proposal

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The question

The question I'd like to pose in my dissertation is, does music and comedy go hand in hand or is it only for the comedy and juxtaposition and this is something I really enjoy and I'd like to look into music and comedic styles and how some directors have different styles when it comes to putting music into their films and I'm mainly looking to see if there are any patterns within directors choosing random music for some of their comedic scenes or whether or not they put a lot of work into choosing the music for it.

For the execution of this paper I'm going to be writing I'm going to be looking into a few different places like old films and new films for example I was thinking of looking at the more recent film Thor Ragnarok and how that film used the song Immigrant Song by Led Zeppelin to help with the fight scenes I'd also like to talk about this film on how the song was used in a Leitmotif as it was used at the beginning of the film where Thor was just tearing the place up beating up a load of bad guys and it established that that was the song that Thor would win the battle in and then it was used once again in the end of the film where Thor had just had a low point and then he discovered he had the power in him the whole time and then he just beat everyone up and saved the day and then when it played again everyone knew that Thor was back and cooler than ever. And I wrote an assignment last year on Leitmotifs and how effective they are and that is something I would like to dip into my dissertation because I find music incredibly moving and extremely important to the film, this is also something I am looking into for my final major projects and I want my final major film scored and I've been looking into composers to score the film for me.

Another film I am looking into is the back to the future film and how that film had leitmotifs and small music cues that helped the audience understand what was going on in the film such as the chime that are made up of a piano hitting 6 notes with then is overlapped with a small chimes section and then a hit note on the strings and this is only heard whenever time travel is mentioned and or whenever time is altered in the past.



The final film I'd like to look into for comedic timing is *Baby Driver* a film by Edgar Wright, this film was the first film off the back of his successful Cornetto trilogy which was made up of *Shaun of the Dead*, *Hot Fuzz* and then finally *The World's End*, I mainly want to be focusing on how Edgar Wright uses music in a scene not only to add to it emotionally but to add comedy where there wouldn't normally be comedy and how it doesn't have to be a juxtaposition for it to be funny the music can add comically in other ways other than juxtaposing.



Music is incredible to me and I find that music has a way to moving a person's emotions and making them feel a certain way when view a piece of film some many different composers over time have composed so many different things and each with their own person style and the composer has just as much a role in the film as the director or editor does, the composer job is to make the film flow in a more emotional way, deeper than the film would have been than if it was just no music what so ever.

For my keywords I have chosen Emotion, Comedy and Rememberable these words I will go through my thinking process behind them and how I'd like them to relate to my work and then at the end I'll go over which other films I'm going to investigate which books and articles I'm going to be researching and then finally what my thought process is on this subject.

Emotion is a term used very willy nilly when it comes to talking about films and their original scores but when we get down to the nitty gritty of everything emotion is a lot more narrow than you would originally think what I mean by that is that emotion doesn't just come when an audience is shown a picture and then something is played over the top of it an audience must have a reaction to the thing they are interacting with whether that's a film or a piece of music or a piece of art its something that audience must establish *"the context in which music can be heard are varied. It is possible to be exposed to the same piece of music in situations as diverse as a shopping mall, a car, or a concert hall"* (Juslin. P and Sloboda, J. 2012) what I take away from that quote is that an audience must be subjected to an piece of music in a certain way to react with the emotion you want them to so narrowing the channel in the emotional response is shown is extremely hard in todays day and age but yet some senior composers, composers who have been around for the change from classical scoring to nowadays where its all digital and the editing processes was not all fluid like it is today the composers have a better understanding of emotional music making and how the music can work in a scene to the more efficient way possible and gain the right emotional feel in

the moment, I want to also research the feeling when you here really epic orchestral music and then you feel really powerful and see how that relates to cinema.

Comedy being my second word is something I'm extremely fond of and personally its my chosen genre for anything, when I'm going to start writing my final film its going to be a comedy, and someone with my background and aptitude for comedy writing, a lot of my favourite films are comedies, that doesn't mean I'm very hesitant to watch other genres it just means that its my personal preference but I'd like to look into comedy and how music and comedy correlate and collaborate within a scene in a film and how music can make a scene funnier or how a scene can effect the funniness of a the music.

There is a level of comedy that I'd also like to research into with my diss and that is the difference of visual and dialog comedy and how music is used more in the visual comedy, something I'd like to research a lot for my own final major project film as I'd like to do a lot of visual comedy within my final film as I do not want to much dialog in my film.

Comedy is completely subjective and this again is something I have to address in my dissertation is that something I find funny may not be found funny by someone else viewing the same film and I feel personally it could heavily influence my dissertation if I do not address that these are the things that I find funny within cinema and other forms of media.

Also were possible I'd like to research a lot into the reactions of juxtaposition and how music that doesn't normally fit into the scene but it does fit into the scene perfectly and also some of the films that have done this well and some that have done it badly.

Rememberable in this part of my dissertation I'd like to look into the ideas of leitmotifs and how they can trigger an emotional moment within the mind and how they can make some notes so memorable and how something like the Jurassic park theme is ingrained into our minds because we all remember the Baritone horn playing the beginning and then slowly into the harps where the final fanfare reminds us of dinosaurs, or how I mentioned earlier in this essay that there's a small piano jiggle that indicates time travel in the back to the future films. I think when it comes to films like the marvel make they don't focus on the music too much because not that many marvel themes are that memorable, I only remember them because I'm a bit of a nerd for music scores, but I also want to look into things like why marvel music isn't that memorable and why temp music is such a big problem when creating and scoring a film.



Linking my dissertation to my final major project is one that I really hope will flow organically and one that I hopefully will be able to take the skills and research I do in my dissertation further and far into my career as a sort of life skill, I really enjoy music but being able to create a film that emotionally connect to people through the music is going to take a lot of effort and its going to take a lot of will power and connection to try and find the right type of people to help create a score for it, I also want to licence a song for my final major so I'm going to be looking into how to licence a song for my film but the main link between my dissertation and my film is understanding how music correlates with comedy and creating a film that focuses on the music and needs the music to help drive the scene.

I'm a very big fan of music in films and making films without music in it isn't something I plan on doing soon so looking into the use of music within cinema and other forms of video just seems like a no brainer to me.

Conclusion

In conclusion I feel like my dissertation proposal question is strong but could still you some shaping and cutting some of the edges off to make it more streamline so that's its easier to read somethings I feel like I can research into a lot more like researching into the factory of using temp music while editing a film and how that effects film making process because from the small amount of researched already it seems like a very controversial topic within the film making process like a lot of composers don't like it when film makers use temp music to help score the film and I've listened to some examples and honestly its shocking when a composer is hired to score a film and the film maker just asks them to copy the temp music in my own personal opinion I don't think that's very fair on a composer to have to do because that gets the composer in trouble.

Anyway to conclude this proposal I'd like to state that this is something I'm quite passionate about in film and I feel like I wouldn't have a hard time writing about it when it comes to music and comedy I feel like thoses are my strongest points and heavy submerge myself into that world of comical story telling and musical story telling because after all sound is half the movie and the audience laugh when they dont cry at a good movie.

References

Juslin, P. and Sloboda, J. (2012). *Handbook of music and emotion*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.