**Practical Techniques in Live Film Score Production**

Abstract:

*This workshop is a primer on practical techniques to prepare & record film scores to picture with live musicians.*

Summary:

*We will cover the basic techniques and skills necessary in order to effectively record a film score to picture. These techniques and skills include*

* Midi Mockups
  + Creating the MIDI Mockup
  + Creating a MIDI Tempo Track
* Specific Software
  + CUE
  + Streamers
  + Pro Tools & Logic
* Music Editing
  + Punches and Streamers
  + Slugging Cues
* Conducting Basics
  + Patterns
  + Free Time vs Click Tracks
* Business & Budgeting for Musicians/Engineers
  + Hiring a Conductor
  + Hiring an Engineer
  + Hiring an Orchestra
  + Contracting a Studio
  + Misc. Staff
* The “Big” Sound
  + Layering Multiple Recordings
  + Avoiding “Phasing”
  + Mic Setups & Recording Tips
  + Layering MIDI with Live Performance
  + Mixing
* Preparing Sheet Music
  + Conductors Scores
    - Printed vs Digital
  + Parts
* The Spotting Session
  + Watching the Film
  + Speak Their Language
  + The Cue Sheet

8-Week Lesson Plan

1. *First Steps - Terminology & Software*

In our first session we will go over terminology & software specific to live score recording. Students will learn about Punches & Streamers and the roles of each person in the studio.

1. *Preparing materials to Record - From DAW to Studio*

In this session, students will learn how to take a Midi mockup from their DAW and make it studio ready. They will learn how to prepare sheet music for conductors and musicians as well as how to create a click track for use on the scoring stage.

1. *The Conductor & Musicians*

This session covers contracting & interacting with Conductors and Musicians. We will discuss each person’s role as it relates to the performers and what is considered appropriate and professional behaviour on the scoring stage. We will also discuss the differences between a musician in a traditional orchestra vs a film score orchestra.

1. *Preparing your Studio*

In this session students will learn everything that’s necessary to prepare a studio for recording. Students will learn the skills necessary to facilitate an efficient and well produced recording of any orchestra. We will talk about Mic setups, bussing techniques and picture playback.

1. *The Session*

This session is a chance for students to record a 30 second to 1 minute piece using a small ensemble. Students who participate in the recording will be required to follow all procedures discussed in the past four sessions.

1. *“Sweetening”*

In this session students will learn techniques to “sweeten” their recordings. We will discuss doubling techniques, midi layering and phase cancellation in an effort to teach students how to create a “large” orchestra sound. Basic mixing tips will also be touched on.

1. *Delivering the Final Product*

This session is a follow up to the previous weeks session. More in depth mixing techniques will be covered. Students will get a chance to showcase their sessions and receive advice. At the end of this session, students who have recorded a project during Week 5 will be given a chance to mix their project with the instructor.

1. *The Business End of a Scoring Orchestra*

This weeks class covers the techniques needed to create and manage a budget for Film Cue recording. We will also cover contracting musicians, unions, standard rates as well as royalties and copyrights.

Course Needs

\* Indicates provided by Instructor

*Software Needed*

* Logic Pro
* Pro Tools
* Virtual Instrument Software\*
* Cue\*
* Streamers\*
* Quicktime Player 7

*Equipment Needed*

* Microphones
  + Cascade Fatheads
  + Sennheiser 421 x2
  + AT 4040
  + NTG2 Pair
* Five Pairs of Headphones
* XLR cables
* 4 Mic Stands
* Cue Box x3
* 2 Headphone Extensions
* 2 Headphone Adapters
* Conductors Baton\*
* Conductors Score and Parts\*
* 5 Music Stands

*Space & Time Needed*

* Studio - 712 (2 hrs/Week)

*Staff Needed*

* 4 musicians (String Quartet)
  + Only one session
  + Will be volunteers

Recommended Readings

* [“Complete Guide to Film Scoring” by Richard Davis](http://www.amazon.com/Complete-Guide-Scoring-Richard-Davis/dp/0876391099)
* [“Business of Music: The Definitive Guide to the Music Industry” by M. William & Shemel Krasilovsky](http://www.rakuten.com/prod/this-business-of-music/204180989.html?listingId=221348578&s_kwcid=)