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Alternatives to Orchestral Score Style

From 1977 to 1984, there were numerous alternative film scores to the full orchestral score style that John Williams with his *Star War* films utilized. Many composers during that time felt that there is no need to use symphonic underscoring to create a high-quality film.

Synthesized scores are made from a synthesizer, an electronic instrument that is able to generate and reproduce sounds. Since they can reproduce sounds, this instrument can replace an entire orchestra, or make new sounds that traditional instruments can not create. There are three styles of synthesizer music that can be heard in film music. Modern synthesized songs are associated with electronic music and the instrument can be used to create new scores that have new colors. Traditional synthesized songs utilize the instrument's ability to replicate sounds in order to imitate acoustic instruments or instruments within an orchestra (piano, violin, flute, etc.). Popular synthesized songs are associated with rock music and are an important element of popular-music film scores. Some notable films that utilize synthesized music in its score include *Midnight Express*, *Halloween*, and *Vangelis*. In *Midnight Express*, composer Moroder utilized the synthesizer in a traditional sense from dissonances to popular melodic materials. He mimicked sounds of musical instruments like the piano, violin, and electric guitars while composing his score for the film. In *Halloween*, the synthesizer is used in a modern sense creating the theme for Michael with uneven, lopsided rhythm done in a low register reflects the killer's unrelenting pursuit and murder of his victims.

Popular music was already been well established in all phases of film scoring. From the late 1970s and into the 1980s there is rapid trend changes and divisions in the alternative score breaking into distinct styles and sub-styles that gave a variety of new fresh sounds.

Some notable films that uses this alternative scoring include *Rocky*, *Taxi Driver*, *Nashville*, and *Saturday Night Fever*. In *Saturday Night Fever*, the film's plot is designed with numerous scenes that gave opportunities for the director to play popular music. The film brought the disco genre into mainstream audiences, and the soundtrack by Bee Gees that sold with the film surpassed all sale records of the time for film music. *Rocky* was a sports film that featured training sessions and competitions. There is a heavy use of a combo of popular rock music and orchestral instruments such as brass fanfare to incite strong emotions in the main character's journey in boxing.

Adapted scores from the late 1970s and early 1980s adapted numerous excerpts from 18th century works. Specifically baroque era music achieved popularity since it was a distinctively fresh sound that is dominant in Romantic, modern, and popular styles. Some notable films that use adapted scores are *The Shining* and *Amadeus*. In *The Shining*, uses borrowed excerpts of original works from the twentieth century such as Béla Bartók's Music for Strings, Percussion, and Celesta (1936), György Ligeti's Lontano (1967), and six works by the Polish avant-garde composer Krzysztof Penderecki in combination with Wendy Carlos original synthesized music. For *Amadeus*, the film uses no newly composed music, but rather music by Mozart.