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Music for Clip #3

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Music for Clip #3

D. Vendt
February 2004

This piece was written as my entry in the 2004 Young Film Composers competition sponsored by Turner Classic Movies. It is to accompany a short clip from a silent movie that is exactly one minute long. In the clip, the hero of the story is laboring to save a town from flooding. Unfortunately, the dam upstream breaks and torrents of water wash the hero downstream, where he is eventually rescued.

This piece was my first serious attempt to compose music for a film. The music is intended to add tension and enhance the drama that is on screen.

The duration of this piece is exactly 1 minute and one second.

Instrumentation:

2 Flutes

2 Clarinets

2 Trumpets

2 French Horns

1 Trombone

1 Bass Trombone

1 Tuba

Violins

Violas

Cellos

Double Bass

Percussion: Xylophone

Cymbal, Snare Drum

Toms

Piano

Music for Clip #3

D. Vendt

0:02 0:05 0:07

first measure
is equal to the extra
2 seconds at the beginning of the film

Dam breaking
#1

water builds and flows
over main character

Flutes $\text{♩} = 84$ $\text{♩} = 96$ *mf*

Bb Clarinet *mf*

Trumpet *mf*

French Horn muted

Trombone muted *mf*

Bass Trombone muted *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Violins

Violas

Cello

Double Bass

Xylophone

Cymbal, Snare Drum SD

Toms *ff fp*

Piano

7

Fl.

Clar.

Tpt.

F Hn.

Tbn. *cresc.*

Bass Tbn.

Tuba

Vln.

Vla.

Cel.

Dbl. Bs.

Xyl.

Cym., SD

Pno.

14 0:15 crowd shot #1 0:16 water shot #1 0:20 crowd shot #2

Fl.

Clar.

Tpt.

F Hn.

Tbn.

Bass Tbn.

Tuba

Vln.

Vla.

Cel.

Dbl. Bs

Xyl.

Cym., SD

Pno.

0:21 water shot #2

0:23

0:27 dam breaking #2 (big scale)

Fl.

Clar.

Tpt.

F Hn.

Tbn.

Bass Tbn.

Tuba

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Cel.

Dbl. Bs.

Xyl.

Cym., SD

Pno.

25

0:31

0:32

water shot #3

2 men run to river

Fl.

Clar.

Tpt.

F Hn.

Tbn.

Bass Tbn.

Tuba

Vln.

Vla.

Cel.

Dbl. Bs

Xyl.

Cym.,
SD

Pno.

water shot #3

2 men run to river

Fl.

Clar.

Tpt.

F Hn.

Tbn.

Bass Tbn.

Tuba

Vln.

Vla.

Cel.

Dbl. Bs

Xyl.

Cym.,
SD

Pno.

31 0:37 0:38

crowd shot #4 2 men at river

Fl.

Clar.

Tpt. 2. muted a2, open

F Hn.

Tbn.

Bass Tbn.

Tuba

Vln.

Vla.

Cel.

Dbl. Bs.

Xyl.

Cym., SD

Pno.

Fl.

Clar.

Tpt.

F Hn.

Tbn.

Bass Tbn.

Tuba

Vln.

Vla.

Cel.

Db. Bs.

Xyl.

Cym., SD

Pno.

The musical score for page 36 is written for a large ensemble. The instruments are arranged in the following order from top to bottom: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Clar.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Horn (F Hn.), Trombone (Tbn.), Bass Trombone (Bass Tbn.), Tuba, Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello (Cel.), Double Bass (Db. Bs.), Xylophone (Xyl.), Cymbals and Snare Drum (Cym., SD), and Piano (Pno.). The score begins at measure 36. The Flute, Clarinet, and Violin parts feature complex, fast-moving melodic lines with many accidentals. The Trombone and Bass Trombone parts play a steady, rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Tuba and Double Bass parts provide a harmonic foundation with sustained notes and some movement. The Piano part is highly active, playing a dense texture of chords and arpeggios in both hands. The Xylophone and Cymbals/Snare Drum parts are mostly silent, indicated by whole rests.

43 0:54 1:00

Dam breaking #3
(huge!)

Last shot: crowd #5
vamp as necessary as movie fades

Fl.

Clar.

Tpt.

F Hn.

Tbn.

Bass Tbn.

Tuba

Vln.

Vla.

Cel.

Dbl. Bs

Xyl.

Cym.,
SD

Pno.