

STEVE KIRK AND COMPOSERS & SCHOOLS IN CONCERT



Composer Workshop Scoring and Sound Design for Film, Television and Games

Cue Sheet for Teachers

Recommended for grades 9 - 12

Workshop Description

In this three-period workshop students gain pragmatic knowledge of composing music for a variety of media through use of the digital audio workstation (DAW) and notation software. Students receive guidance regarding the aesthetic choices made when composing music for video games, film or television. Students participate in a class project and engage in creating a collaborative score for a short film. Fundamentals of recording, form, tempo, timeline mapping and use of digital audio workstation and notation software are discussed and employed.

Instructional Goals

- Develop composition skills appropriate for media
- Learn to make sound aesthetic choices
- Develop listening skills through ear training and music analysis
- Gain an increased working knowledge of music theory and orchestration

Course Outline

Period 1: Steve Kirk demonstrates how to score a film using digital audio workstation (DAW) and notation software. Students engage in ear training and short theme-writing exercises.

Period 2: Students participate in a group discussion surrounding scoring for a short film segment. Students begin to score the short film collaboratively, guided by Steve Kirk from the digital audio workstation. Music parts may be printed out and students may be asked to perform and record parts for this session.

Period 3: Finishing up the series, the students mix audio and sound effects and export the session to a new QuickTime movie with sound. Students participate in discussions surrounding the composition process: a) working within and adjusting to the limitations of available tools b) basic use of digital audio workstation and notational software as a composition tool.



Teaching Artist, Steve Kirk

Steve Kirk is a composer, arranger, guitarist and singer. Throughout his work, encompassing everything from multimedia to modern chamber music, he attempts to redefine pop music beyond the confines of contemporary restriction into a world where the odd and beautiful coalesce, acoustic and electric coexist and nothing is too far-fetched. Steve composed for Clubfoot Orchestra, the San Francisco-based ensemble that set the standard for live music/original scores performed with classic silent film including *Sherlock, Jr.*, *Nosferatu* and *Pandora's Box*. Steve played with and composed for Clubfoot culminating in a mid-nineties stint writing and recording all the incidental music for a Saturday morning cartoon series, *The Twisted Tales of Felix the Cat*. Steve has also composed music for the Disney/Griptonite title *The Princess and The Frog*, wrote the theme song for the Zynga/Facebook game *FarmVille*, and for the online multi-player game *Star Wars: The Old Republic*. And, Steve has created the music for PC video games: *Zodiac*, *Realms of Gold*, *Word Spiral*, *Four Houses*, *Flying Leo* and *Voodoo Vince*. Steve teaches guitar and composition privately, and at the Blue Bear School of Music and Community Music Center in San Francisco.

www.stevekirkpop.com
www.composersandschools.com

- Compose for musician friends and record and mix the performances
- Collaborate with friends to make a YouTube video and offer to create the score for the project

POST-WORKSHOP IDEAS