

Film Scoring & Multimedia Ensemble

One incredibly exciting outlet for improvised music is an original film score. In “multimedia ensemble,” I have the students improvise along with something visual like a scene from a film, a photograph, or a painting. Ultimately, I will ask the students compose, record, and perform music to accompany a film scene.

We will record the music into the computer using a Metronome to lock in the exact time point. Then I will edit the video and audio together, and at a live performance, the students will perform the original score over scenes from the film (you see professional orchestras like the BSO do this often in the summer and around the holidays).

The use of multi media, particularly popular movies, has helped the students get motivated to practice their instruments. More importantly, they see music as something that can be fun and something they want to do in their free time. Some of my students will work on these multimedia projects outside of class.

Other times, I’ll have the students learn the score to a film and improvise off that. For one class, I had them learn the song to the movie *Mission Impossible*. It is actually an odd meter that posed a challenge for the students. We enjoyed learning this piece and recording it into the computer using Metronome. We then went online and found snippets of the *Mission Impossible* movie with Tom Cruise. We edited the snippets to fit along with the audio we recorded.

At our performance we played along to the pre-recorded track while the video that we edited was played behind us. Playing with this type of multimedia at the middle school level is something unique to Beth T’filoh and my curriculum.

