Statement by the Director

Goosebumps. In more ways than one, this film was born from them.

Like many a cinephile, I remember the stirring rhythms of The Good The Bad and The Ugly, the spine-tingling orchestral finale of E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial, and the pounding, adrenaline-pumping awe of The Dark Knight’s final ride.

These are moments where, almost inexplicably, we as viewers transcend the story we’re being told. The music speaks to us in ways we can’t intellectually grasp — but in ways our heart still can.

These moments prove that the right picture paired with the right sound can create a physical change in our heartbeats, our tear ducts, even our arms and legs. They create chills. Cold shivers. Goosebumps.

Film music speaks to us in a language we can understand, but few of us can speak.

But what if we could? How much more could we appreciate the talents of those musical storytellers?

SCORE: A FILM MUSIC DOCUMENTARY grew from a personal exploration of film music’s power into a focused examination of why we feel these moments, and what goes into making them.

Told entirely through the perspectives of film composers, directors and musicians, SCORE reveals the inspiration, instrumentation, ideas, challenges and triumphs of creating the modern Hollywood soundtrack.

In one of SCORE’s early interviews, legendary composer Hans Zimmer made a careful distinction between music’s role in film versus its performance.

After scoring 150 films — including Rain Man, The Lion King, Gladiator, Pirates of the Caribbean, The Dark Knight and Inception — Zimmer expressed film doesn’t just allow for a score to exist; the film medium sets the stage for it.

“Film music can elevate,” he said.

Over two years, SCORE’s team has left jobs, sacrificed thousands of hours, and traveled around the world to collect the most definitive body of interviews, behind-the-scenes footage and archival collections ever compiled for this feature-length documentary. The result is a testament to the small, unpaid team that saw potential in an idea about why film music gives us
goosebumps — and a testament to the composers who shape these powerful, awe-inspiring moments.

We hope you'll enjoy SCORE: A FILM MUSIC DOCUMENTARY not only as a privileged look at a secretive and little-known art form, but as an exploration of music's ability to evoke powerful emotions in us, and a tuneful celebration of film scores beloved the world over.

Matt Schrader
Director
SCORE: A FILM MUSIC DOCUMENTARY

**Director/Writer**

Matt Schrader is a three-time Emmy Award-winning news producer and filmmaker and a graduate of the University of Southern California’s School of Cinematic Arts. As a special projects producer for news agencies including CBS and NBC, his stories have changed lives, laws and resulted in millions of dollars returned to consumers and communities. In 2014, he left a job with CBS to pursue SCORE: A FILM MUSIC DOCUMENTARY full time — a gamble that resulted in the film becoming one of the most popular crowdfunded documentary projects of the year. Matt also attended the USC Annenberg School for Communication and helped found and grow the Southern California Business Film Festival in 2008. SCORE: A FILM MUSIC DOCUMENTARY is Matt's first feature-length documentary.

**Producers**

Robert Kraft is the former President of Fox Music, which produced Avatar, Titanic, Moulin Rouge and many more under his direction. An Oscar, Golden Globe and Grammy-nominated composer, Kraft co-produced all of the Oscar- and Grammy Award-winning songs in “The Little Mermaid,” including the Academy Award-winning song “Under The Sea.” Kraft is a member of the Music Branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Jonathan Willbanks is a producer, entrepreneur and technologist who has consulted and spearheaded distribution for more than a dozen independent films. A graduate of USC’s Business and Cinematic Arts joint program, his experience includes marketing and distribution for Disney Channel and The Moving Picture Institute, and technology-driven roles with GE, Apple and Verizon.

Kenny Holmes is a producer and national award-winning news and entertainment photographer at NBC in Los Angeles. His photography has won six major regional awards, including three Emmys and the Edward R. Murrow Award for videography, and a National Press Club Award.

Nate Gold is a director of photography and producer having worked on commercials, music videos, and features internationally. He is a graduate of USC’s School of Cinematic Arts. In
2010, he founded and now operates SoundBite Studios, a music studio facility in Los Angeles specializing in helping high-profile artists and creatives refine and realize their craft.

Trevor Thompson is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and a graduate of USC’s Annenberg School for Communication and Thornton School of Music. The son of BMI Award-winning composer Tim Thompson, Trevor’s creative journalism and powerful human interest pieces have broadcast on stations across the country as well as CNN.

Crystal Chavarria is a producer, production designer and art department coordinator whose work has appeared in productions for Disney, NBC, CBS, Fox, Showtime, The CW and Starz. She is a graduate of the USC School of Cinematic Arts, where she graduated cum laude with a degree in film production and production designed and costume designed award-winning student films.
Credits

**Writer/Director**
Matt Schrader

**Producers**
Robert Kraft
Trevor Thompson
Jonathan Willbanks
Nate Gold
Kenny Holmes

**Executive Producers**
Matt Schrader
Jonathan Willbanks

**Associate Producer**
Crystal Chavarria

**Directors of Photography**
Kenny Holmes
Nate Gold

**Editors**
Matt Schrader
Kenny Holmes

**Composer**
Ryan Taubert

**Supervising Sound Editor / Mixer**
Kari Barber

**Dialogue Editor / Re-recording Mixer**
Peter Bawiec

**Animation**
Kyle Goodrich
Eastwood Allen
Matt Schrader

**Color by Blacklist Digital**
Tims Johnson
Narbeh Tatoussian
Justin Williams
Thomas D. Moser
Robert Schauer

**Camera Operators**
Crystal Chavarria
Jeff Cohn
Alex Miskei
Matthew Scheller
Matt Schrader
'Score: A Film Music Documentary' Reaches Kickstarter Goal & Then Some

The first-ever documentary on film scoring is heading into the final stanza of a Kickstarter campaign aiming for a final stretch goal of $100,000.

With more than two dozen interviews with film composers already shot, Score: A Film Music Documentary already has Hans Zimmer (see the clip below), Danny Elfman, Howard Shore and Christophe Beck on board, in addition to executives, experts and filmmakers. Former head of music at Fox, Robert Kraft, recently joined the Score team as a producer.

"When we can spell out things, simplify them to a level where it's understandable [to people outside the industry], I think people will find it interesting," director Matt Schrader says of the filmmakers' vision for the project.

ASCAP Honors Top Film & TV Composers at 2015 Ceremony

Started last summer when Schrader left his job as a TV news producer in Sacramento to focus full-time on Score, the Kickstarter funds will allow him and his team to travel to New York and London to shoot for another two months or so.

Schrader, a first-time director, had long been fascinated by bonus material features on DVDs and often felt short-changed when information about music was left out in favor of an explanation of special effects. While a student at USC, a conversation with David Aiking with one of his partners on the film, Trevor Thompson, led them to believe there had to be a documentary with a similar interest in the subject.

"It was so cutting-edge and there was not much done on how it was made," he says. "I figured sure somebody is doing something on the subject. That didn't happen."

He started by reaching out to Shawn LeMone, ASCAP's VP of Creative Services, Film & TV/Visual Media, and composer John Debney. That led Schrader, Thompson and their team of Kenny Holmes, Nate Gold, Jonathan Wilbanks and Crystal Chavarria - all associated with USC and under 30 - to other major names in the business. Oddly, none of them were aware of the film-scoring process when they started.

Schrader has a rough script for the film and intends to follow three to five storylines with different composers, show the evolution of film scoring and changes in musical styles and touch on "the specific moments in film where the notes give rise to goosebumps." He intends to show the political and financial climate that has shaped the modern world of composing for film.
Watch Iconic Movie Music Get Made In An Exclusive Clip From New Documentary "Score"

John Williams, Howard Shore and more film composers at the legendary recording home of the Beatles

BY BENJAMIN BERNSTEIN | DECEMBER 7, 2016 | 11:28 PM

Imagine "Gone With the Wind" without John Williams' "The Wind" or "Wuthering Heights" without "William Tell Overture". Epic music, in fact, is actually not so easy to find at all.

Both of those composers are featured in "Score: A Film Music Documentary", currently in the works. You can see Williams and Shore in the making of a film from the box to the big screen, which spotlights movie music recorded in Studio 1 at Abbey Road Studios — the same room where the Beatles recorded most of their orchestral music. This clip also features Jean Kramer talking about the recording space while he works on the year "Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation."

The documentary will explore the power of the music as an art form and delve into the creative and technical process of scoring a movie.

As director and executive producer Matt Schrader describes it, "Score is about how composers experiment and write a symphony that is designed to evoke feelings in us."

Schrader told E! News multiple times, he and his film crew got to witness a composer talking with his people on his team about why a certain note should be a certain way because it makes us feel something different. They worry about every single note that's in the score because they understand that it affects us."

Did you know about the music composed for films like "The Dark Knight" and "Finding Nemo" inspired Schrader, an Emmy Award-winning producer, to make a feature-length documentary about film scores.

Over 50 producers — from composers to directors to film critics — have been interviewed for the doc, Schrader said that even some may not make the final cut of the film, he hopes to make sure every fan knows understanding what each film has added to the story.

Among the participants in the project are composer James Cameron, Danny Elfman, "Batista Killer" composer Bear McCreary, and "The Social Network" director David Fincher.

You can watch the latest trailer for "Score" above. Now, this trailer's got a little mystery waiting to be solved. What is the final track in the trailer? Is that music that sounds at 1:40? It certainly sounds like the epic, moving piece of music — but it's nothing that the film score needs waiting for this documentary have been able to identify since it appeared in the first trailer for the documentary earlier this year.

Schrader is keeping mum on exactly that music's from.

"We purposely haven't told people because we don't want them to know yet," he said. "A lot of people have thought it's Hans Zimmer, Some people thought it's John Debney, who's on the screen at that time. But I think we've gonna keep that (secret) for now because that will end up showing up in the film."

The director did note he felt that the mystery track was composed for a film (it's not from a trailer music library), and it's from a film that has been released. Perhaps it's some piece of unused, alternate music? Who composed it? And for what film? We'll have to wait to find out.

"Score" closed funds in a successful Kickstarter campaign in March. Today an Indiegogo campaign launched to raise the final funds for the film, which is aiming for an April 2016 release.

RELATED
Documentary about film scores seeks final crescendo of Kickstarter funds

by Brian Itz
Mar 14, 2015

LOS ANGELES, CA — To the sound of nylon harp, harp-oner keyboard, and piano, filmmaker Scott Jacoby is back with his piece that seeks to make a documentary about film scores. A Film Music Documentary, which will explore the world of composers and the scores they produce for major movies, will include interviews with Hans Zimmer, Danny Elfman, John Powell, and dozens more musical stalwarts.

“The documentary is an exploration of the film score,” Jacoby says. “It’s a way to look at the way that music is used in film. It’s a way to look at the way that music is used to tell a story.”

The documentary will be funded through Kickstarter, where Jacoby hopes to raise $25,000 in the next week. The funds will be used to pay for interviews and marketing, as well as to pay for travel and equipment.

“I think it’s a really important project,” Jacoby says. “It’s a way to bring attention to the work that goes into making a film score.”

The documentary will be released in the fall of 2015.
Inside 'Score': Fundraised Doc on Scoring Exposes Hans Zimmer's Creative Fears (Video)

3:48 PM PST 3/13/2013 by PAULA TOLAND

Hans Zimmer
Matt Schrader's doc, currently fundraising on Kickstarter, has Danny Elfman, Patrick Doyle, Henry Jackman, Antonio Sanchez, Howard Shore and Christophe Beck back and more on board.

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The.known documentary on film scoring is heading into the final stages of a Kickstarter campaign, aiming for a final stretch goal of at least $500,000.

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READ MORE

'Inside the 'Rings': Composer Howard Shore on Scoring 46 Movies: "I Often Feel Like Frodo!"

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"I was so outraged and there was not much done on how it was made," he says, "I felt absolutely somebody is doing something on the subject. That didn’t happen."

He started by reaching out to Maureen Lafferty, ASCAP's ops creative services, film & TV/visual media, and composer Jake Deyton. That led Schrader, Thompson and their team of Kenny Vernier, Nate Choi, Jonathan Williams and Crystol Ebener – all associated with USC and under 35 – to either major names in the business. Oddly, one of them was aware of the film scoring process when they started.

READ MORE

Inside the Hans Zimmer Mind – SCORE, A Film-Music Documentary

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