

Rory Kerr

Ambrose Treacy College

Opening Theme, Copycat

Statement of Compositional Intent

My composition, *Opening Theme*, is a piece of programmatic music written as an innovative film score written for the film, *Copycat*. This fictional film tells the story of a struggling businessman who turns to committing fraud. In this opening scene, the audience are introduced to a city skyline shot from a helicopter followed by a cut to a scene of the stressed protagonist. My score aims to create an atmosphere that is both influenced by, and complementary to the events unfolding onscreen. My work aims to act as an auditory canvas for setting the scene.

My work develops in two different ways. The first section builds up slowly, starting with a simple melody in the piano which stays largely the same until (0:28), where its notes are echoed (or “copied” - paying homage to the film’s title) down the register of the instrument. Throughout this section the solo piano is also joined by strings, timpani, and horns. This slow introduction of instruments creates a terraced texture that develops and builds toward a clear peak as the texture becomes thicker and thicker. I have chosen to write the first section in this way to enrich the storytelling happening on screen - the flowing strings and terraced dynamics create the perfect score for an opening scene. The second section, after the style change at (0:55), develops much faster. It uses a fast Latin-American conga groove to set a precedent of movement and energy which is matched by the strings when they join in.

The two distinct sections communicate meaning by serving as the accompaniment to two different scenes. As stated before, the first section would accompany the establishing shots, swooping through a city skyline much like the famous opening scene of *Forrest Gump*. The strings and horns join this section as the camera starts swooping low to the ground, so that the thickening texture in my piece reflects the business and movement of the city. The style change at (0:55) is just as important to communicating the meaning of the piece - after the first section peaks all instruments drop out to represent a camera cut to a bedroom where the protagonist is. The frantic nature of this second section is important to introducing this character, as it reflects his rushed and panicked demeanour as he struggles to make it in the business world.

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