

# TEACHING WITH SILENT MOVIES IN THE MUSIC STUDIO

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## Penny Lazarus Piano Studio

313 Merrimac Street · Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950

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## **For sample silent movies with student accompaniment:**

You Tube Channel: Pclazarus1

## **Article:**

“Silent Movie Accompanying for Students and Professionals” in *Clavier Companion*, November/December 2012, by George Litterst, Penny Lazarus and Donald Sosin, pages 34 to 41.

## **Uploaded on the NCKP website:**

- A blank Cue Sheet for replication
- A sample Cue Sheet with student music (the first 40 minutes of the silent movie *The Mark of Zorro*, with Douglass Fairbanks, 1920)
- Table of Contents for Sam Fox Moving Picture Music by J. S. Zamecnik, 1913.
- Sample of “Burglar” Music from Sam Fox Moving Pictures Music.
- Sample Silent Movie Recital Program
- Sample Lesson Plan for a three day silent movie cartoon workshop

## **Recommended web sites:**

Sam Fox Moving Pictures Music is available as a PDF file at

[www.mont-alto.com/photoplaymusic/SamFoxMovingPictureVol1/SamFoxV1.html](http://www.mont-alto.com/photoplaymusic/SamFoxMovingPictureVol1/SamFoxV1.html)

## **100 Best Silent Movies from the Pre-Dialogue Era:**

[www.imdb.com/list/jig3Cu2juLQ/](http://www.imdb.com/list/jig3Cu2juLQ/)

## **Silent Movies available for purchase on DVD:**

[www.silentsaregolden.com](http://www.silentsaregolden.com)

## **Silent Movie pianists:**

Richard Hughes, [www.silentmovieshows.com/programs.htm](http://www.silentmovieshows.com/programs.htm)

Donald Sosin and Joanna Seaton: [www.silent-film-music.com/](http://www.silent-film-music.com/)





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## A Sample Cue Sheet With Student Music

Movie Title: The Mark of Zorro, Running Time: 40 minutes		
Scene Description	Musical Selection	Student
Opening: Title Card of Actors	<b>Spanish Intermezzo</b> by Dennis Alexander, In Duets, level 3, Alfred, faster, ABD sections.	Signe
TC: Oppression by its very nature Creates the Power that Crushes It.	<b>Spanish Dance, Dance Espanol</b> by Catherine Rollin in Sounds of Spain.	Lily
TC: In Cal. Nearly a hundred years ago Disease crept in.	No repeat of the theme in Spanish Dance	Lily
TC: Then Out of the unknown appeared a masked rider	<b>The Spanish Guitar</b> , by Francesco Molino, arrangement in Faber Piano Adventures, Performance, level 1,1X	Charlie
TC: The Mark of Zorro, half of first bar scene.	<b>Rain Dance</b> , Faber Adventures Performance, level 1, 1X, no chords.	Charlie
2TC: Bears the Mark of Zorro, second scar scene.	<b>Cantina Band</b> , From Star Wars, arranged by Robert Schultz for WB, 1X	Teddy
TC: Zorro comes upon you like a graveyard ghost, then disappears.	<b>Hall of the Mountain King</b> , Grieg, arrangement by Mary Elizabeth Clark sheet for Myklas, ABA with coda.	Jeremiah
TC: The Governor in the North is greedy, arrogant	1X,	Jeremiah
and orders his troops to subdue Zorro.	normal speed.	Jeremiah
TC: Hut of a Native.	<b>Bach Minuet in g minor</b>	Allison
Zorro is our only Friend	1 page only.	Allison
At the hacienda of Don Carlos Pulido	<b>Schubert Serenade</b> in John Thompson, Modern Course for the Piano, Grade Three.	Sam
Governer Shows no mercy. We lose everything	Schubert Serenade	Sam
His Wife and daughter console him.	Schubert Serenade	Sam
Daughter is reduced to tears.	2 Pages.	Sam
Back at the Cantina, Sgt. Gonzales acts tough.	<b>Star Wars Cantina Band</b> , reprise, 2X	Teddy
Sgt. Gonzales kicks over the chair.	<b>Star Wars Theme Song</b> , interrupt yourself for door knocking. From Star Wars, arranged by Robert Schultz for WB.	Oliver
A door Knock! A shy man with umbrella appears	<b>Beethoven's Fifth</b> , door knocking theme, first 8 measures, Best of Beethoven, level 1, Schaum edition.	Oliver
TC: Don Diego Vega lately home from Spain, TC: Gonzales hoped it was Zorro.	<b>La Cinquataine</b> , Faber and Faber, Playtime Piano Classics, Level 1.	Jeremiah
TC: Fetch me some honey and wine for the soldiers.	One page only, but repeated.	Jeremiah
4TC's: Don Diego is my friend...They Talk about where Zorro is in Capistrano, sits down.	<b>Tiger Rag</b> , from Faber and Faber, Piano Adventures, Pop Rep, 2A, 1X	Jeremiah
TC: Don Diego asks Is it true that Zorro always makes fools of the soldiers.	<b>Russian Sailor Dance</b> , 1X, Faber and Faber, Piano Adventures, Lesson Book, level 1.	Charlie
Gonzales engages Zorro in a mock duel.	<b>Party Song</b> , 1X, Faber and Faber, Piano Adventures, Lesson Book, level 1.	Charlie
TC: And a short one. They toast to an early meeting with Zorro and the Capt. Sword is put away.	<b>Drinking Song</b> , What Whall We do With a Drunken Sailor, from Folksongs of the Sea, Faber FF Music, 1 page.	Jake
TC: Don Diego leaves and says ridding menace is a noble deed.	<b>Duke Ellington, Don't Get Around Much Anymore</b> , both pages., Faber and Faber, Chordtime Piano, Jazz and Blues.	Jake



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## A Sample Cue Sheet With Student Music (cont.)

Movie Title: The Mark of Zorro, Running Time: 40 minutes		
Scene Description	Musical Selection	Student
Gonzales toasts Don Diego and acts like a tough guy again. They think they hear someone at the door.	<b>The Matador....B section.</b> , Catherine Rollin, Sounds of Spain, Book one.	Gabby
TC: A Man says that Zorro knows of your deeds before you do.	The Matador....B section....prepare to be interrupted by door knocking!	Gabby
A knock on the door. Everyone is nervous.	<b>Beethoven's Fifth</b> , whole page....interrupt Gabby.	Oliver
A Man enters and posts a wanted poster for Zorro.	<b>Capriccio by Vincent Persichetti</b> , The Little Piano Book.	Alec
TC: "I shall have that Reward."	<b>Blue Rondo</b> from Dave Brubeck Piano Solos.	Alec
TC: If you Pick on a Native, Zorro will appear.	Blue Rondo	Alec
The minute see Zorro in the window of the Cantina, then he reads the wanted poster.	<b>Grieg, Puck</b> , in Emotions, Schott Piano Classics.	Sam
Zorro corrals the Soldiers with his gun, then Zorro and Gonzales start to duel with swords.	Grieg Puck, 1x without repeat.	Sam
When Zorro and Gonzales back up against the beer keg.	<b>Tcherepnin, Bagatelle #10</b> from Opus 5, Alfred edition.	Petey
Sword fighting continues....	Finish with title card....how I can I fight him....1x whole song.	Petey
TC: How can I fight him if he won't stand still?	<b>Pop-Eye The Sailor Man</b> , Robert Schultz, Children's Songs, WB.	D.J.
TC: Break Down the Door! We Have Zorro in Here!	Pop-Eye The Sailor Man, 2X, repeat the last two lines.	D.J.
TC: Open that Door! Zorro then goes out the front door while stabbing Gonzales in the backside. Escapes on horseback to his home.	<b>The Camel's Tale</b> , whole song, from Melody Bober, Grand Solos for Piano, book 3, Alfred.	Jonathan
As Zorro goes up barn ladder to his house. TC: He who hears but cannot speak.	<b>Espana</b> , by Catherine Rollins, 3X, in Pathways to Artistry, Repertoire, Book 1.	Allison
TC: Oppression would grow less if the Caballeros would enlist in the cause...fist in the air.	<b>Anne Crosby, Moonlight on the Water</b> , 1 page only, from In My Dreams, Frederick Harris music.	Isa
Servant detains Father while Zorro changes to Don Diego.	<b>Dawn is Breaking</b> , by Catherine Rollin, whole song, Pathways to Artistry, Repertoire Book 1.	Isa
Father and Son on the inside balcony discuss proposing to the Pulido's daughter.	<b>Haydn, Sonata in G Major</b> , 1 and 3/4, Henle Edition.	Elise
Don Diego arrives at the Pulidos' by carriage.	Haydn, Sonata in G Major	Elise
The daughter is anxious. He kisses her hand.	Haydn, Sonata in G Major	Elise
TC: Daughter and Don Diego sit down at the table.	<b>Bridal Chorus from Lohengrin</b> , Richard Wagner, Faber and Faber, Pre-time Piano Classics.	Isa
TC: Play my guitar for you. He invites her to stay at his place while away.	<b>Catherine Rollins, Cheerful Dance</b> , 2X.from Catherine Rollin, Pathways to Artistry, Repertoire, 1.	Isa
TC: Don Diego invites the Pulido family to his house. He shows her a puppet trick.	<b>Erik Satie, Gymnopedie</b> , 1 page and 1 line, from The Contemporary Masters, WB.	Elise
He yawns and says goodbye.	Satie, Gymnopedie	Elise
TC: "Honor me with your visit", leaving the house. TC: He's a Fish! TC: "10 minutes later."	<b>Franz Lehar, Merry Widow Waltz</b> , 1.5x from Faber and Faber, Showtime, Classics	Anna
Zorro hops over the fence.	<b>Vivaldi, The Spring</b> , from Faber and Faber, Showtime Classics	Anna



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## A Sample Cue Sheet With Student Music (cont.)

Movie Title: The Mark of Zorro, Running Time: 40 minutes		
Scene Description	Musical Selection	Student
Zorro kisses her hand. She slaps him repeatedly	1x, taking repeats with both endings.	
TC: Race to the Presidio to find Srgnt Gonzales! Father wants to capture Zorro for the reward money.	<b>Sharp Ahoy by Dennis Alexander</b> , ABB' sections in The Magic of Music, book 1, Alfred.	Lily
Zorro seduces her by reciting poetry.	<b>Beates: I Want to Hold Your Hand</b> , 2X, Faber and Faber, Popular Repertoire, 2B.	Maggie
TC: Zorro at my Master's House. Town Scene, horse chase with soldiers.	<b>Catherine Rollins, Flying Horseman</b> , AABCC, Pathways to Artistry, Repertoire, Book 3.	Maggie
Back in the Garden, TC: Daughter asks where Zorro learned the blade.	<b>Nocturne by Martha Mier</b> from Romantic Impressions, Book 2.	Gabby
He continues to seduce her.	Part AA'	Gabby
Capt. Ramon and the troopers arrive.	<b>Wild Honeysuckle Rag</b> by Martha Mier in Jazz, Rags and Blues, book 2.	Lily
TC: The troopers are here! Zorro off on his horse.	1 page and a half.	Lily
Capt. Ramon is interested in the daughter.	<b>Spanish Intermezzo by Dennis Alexander</b> , In Duets, level 3, Alfred.	Signe
He wants an answer to his marriage proposal.	ABD sections.	Signe
Capt. Ramon having meal, criticizes Zorro in front of her.	<b>Dawn is Breaking</b> , 2x by Catherine Rollins, Pathways to Artistry, Repertoire, Book 1.	Lea
Zorro jumps through the window.	Spinfest, 1x.	Jonathan
They Duel.	<b>Spinfest by Dennis Alexander</b> , Especially for Boys, Alfred.	Jonathan
Soldiers give chase to Zorro on horseback	<b>Capriccio</b> , half, end with the scale.	Alec
TC: "Some Ten Minutes Elaspse." Don Diego traveling by carriage later that day.	<b>Robert Schuman, Wild Rider</b> , from Album for the Young.	Signe
Gonzales asks where Zorro is.	AB2A sections.	Signe
TC: The Pulidos' visit Don Diego's hacienda.	<b>Spanish Intermezzo</b> by Dennis Alexander, In Duets, level 3, Alfred.	Signe
Father urges her to accept Don Diego's proposal. She is not sure...scene goes dark.	1x whole song.	Signe
TC: "Hopeful of saving the last remnant"	<b>Cello Song</b> , middle section. 4 and half times from Dennis Alexander, First Lyric Pieces, Alfred.	Arianna
TC: The Pulido's go to plead their case to Capt. Ramon.	continue until she goes over to the table.	Arianna
Daughter relaxes on a couch.	<b>William Gillock, Drifting on Clouds</b> , 1x. Be prepared to be interrupted by knocking, from Collected Short Lyric Pieces, Willis Music.	Isa
A knock on the door. It's Capt. Ramon.	<b>Beethoven's Fifth</b> , first 2 lines.	Oliver
He barges his way inside.	<b>Zamecnik, Hurry Music</b> , from Sam Fox Moving Picture Music.	Aimee
They are alone together.	Zamecnik, Hurry Music	Aimee
She tells him to leave now.	Zamecnik, Hurry Music	Aimee
He reminds her that her father is out of favor with him. Zorro peaks through the window.	Section AA, BB'	Aimee
He makes advances toward her.	May need to repeat AA'	Aimee
Suddenly, Zorro drops down from the ceiling.	<b>Rossini, William Tell Overture</b> , theme from Robert Schultz, Classical Piano Solos for Kids, WB.	Hannah



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## A Sample Cue Sheet With Student Music (cont.)

Movie Title: The Mark of Zorro, Running Time: 40 minutes		
<i>Scene Description</i>	<i>Musical Selection</i>	<i>Student</i>
They duel. Zorro plays with the captain and wins.	<b>Aram Khatchaturian, Sabre Dance</b> from Gayane (Plate Spinning Song), music download from Dorsey Brothers Music Limited.	Petey
He humiliates Ramon by telling him to apologize.	Main theme AA'A' or repeat until fight and apology are over.	Petey
Zorro bids farewell and then kisses her lips.	<b>A Time for Us, from Love Story</b> , William Gillock Arranges Popular Songs, early intermediate, Willis Company.	Nicole



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## Table of Contents for Sam Fox Moving Picture Music by J. S. Zamecnik, 1913

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J. S. ZAMECNIK .

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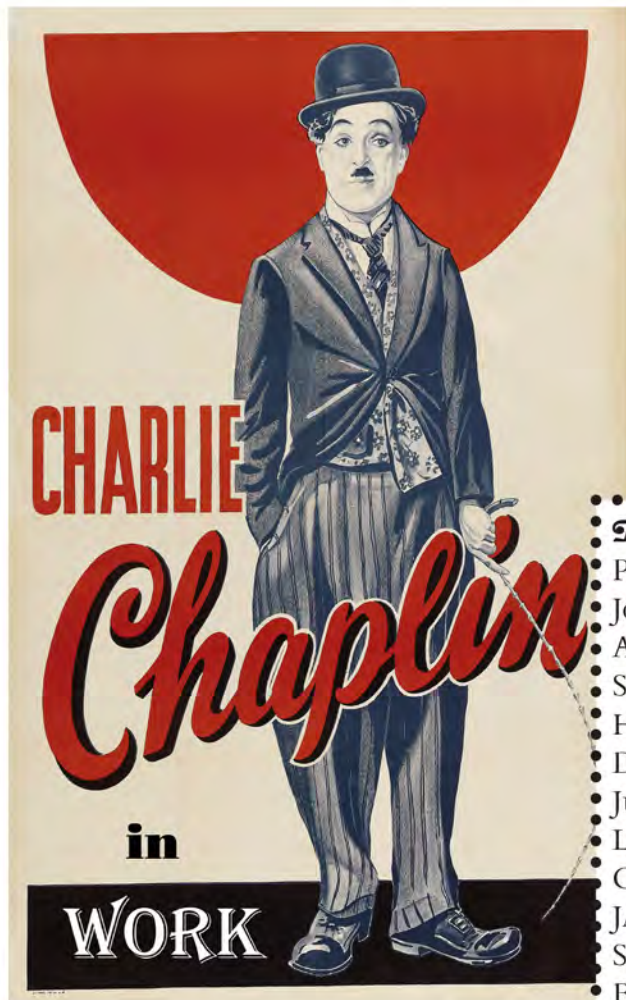
## Sample Silent Movie Recital Program

**The Piano Studio of Penny Lazarus**

*proudly presents*

### THE SILENT MOVIE PROJECT

April 10, 2010



1915

**Featuring:**

- PETEY CONWAY
- JONATHAN JALAJAS
- AIMEE LANE
- SAM McMORROW
- HANNAH GUSTAFSON
- D. J. MCCARTHY
- JUDE HABIB
- LIA FITZSIMMONS
- CHARLIE MEURER
- JAKE GROTH
- SAM VALENZUELA
- BEN BLUMENSCHIED
- MAGGIE McMORROW
- JACKSON KEALEY



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## Sample Silent Movie Recital Program (cont.)



19:

### *Featuring:*

GABRIELLA DeCONTI	BEN BLUMENSCHIED
LILY WITHINGTON	SIGNE FRICK
JACK McMORROW	ARIANNA GULDEMOND
ALLISON RUSSO	NICOLE GIANNINO
HANNAH GUSTAFSON	JONATHAN JALAJAS
ELISE OGDEN	ALEXANDRA ZABROSKI
LIA FITZSIMMONS	AIMEE LANE
ANNA BLUMENSCHIED	

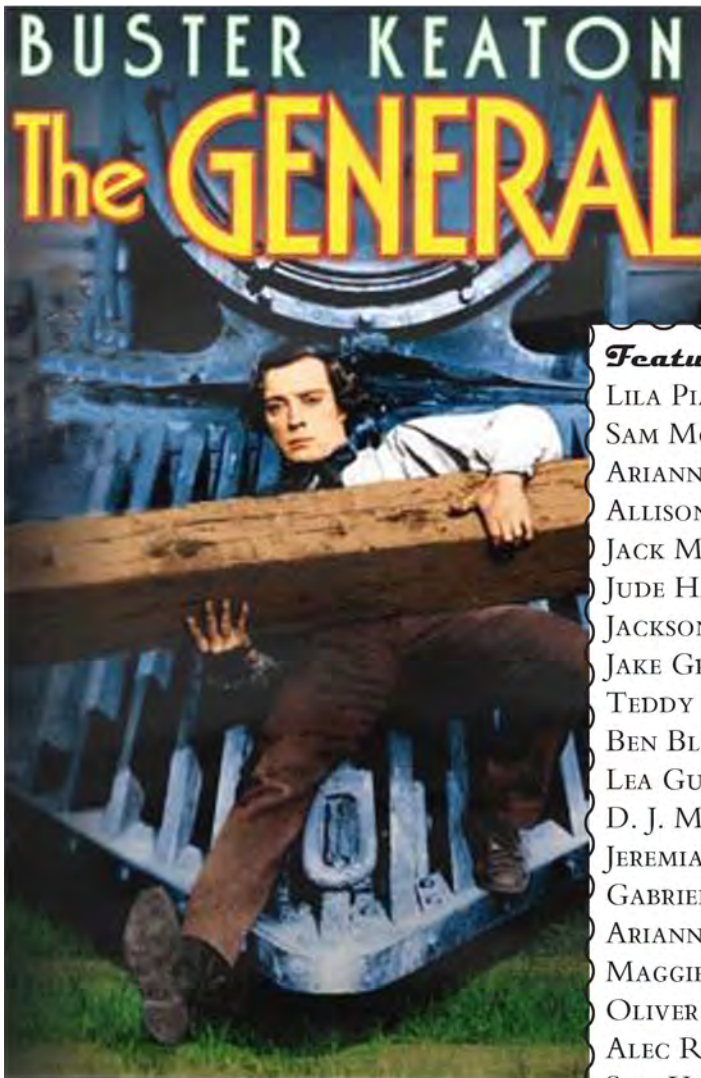


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## Sample Silent Movie Recital Program (cont.)



1926

### *Featuring:*

LILA PIACQUAD  
SAM McMORROW  
ARIANNA GULDEMOND  
ALLISON RUSSO  
JACK McMORROW  
JUDE HABIB  
JACKSON KEALEY  
JAKE GROTH  
TEDDY WOLLMAN  
BEN BLUMENSCHIED  
LEA GULDEMOND  
D. J. MCCARTHY  
JEREMIAH MACKIN  
GABRIELLA DeCONTI  
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ALEC REDUKER  
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JEREMIAH MACKIN  
ALLISON RUSSO  
SAM VALENZUELA  
OLIVER BERZANSKY  
JAKE GROTH  
GABRIELLA DECONTI  
JUDE HABIB  
PETEY CONWAY  
D. J. MCCARTHY  
JONATHAN JALAJAS  
ISABEL BERZANSKY  
ELISE OGDEN  
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MAGGIE McMORROW  
LEA GULDEMOND  
ALEC REDUKER  
ARIANNA GULDEMOND  
AIMEE LANE  
HANNAH GUSTAFSON  
NICOLE GIANNINO



1920

Thanks to Pete Jalajas for video taping today's studio project. Watch for clips from our project for Port Media on Newburyport TV (Channel 9). Thanks also to Lily Withington, Elizabeth Elliot, and Lea and Arianna Guldemonnd for lending their electronic keyboards and speakers, Jono Reduker for photography, Josh Faigen for program design and production, Andrew Mungo—owner of the Screening Room—for taking a chance on hosting this unusual project, and professional silent movie pianist Richard Hughes for his generosity in sharing his silent movie piano playing skill and advice in a workshop for our students at the Newburyport Public Library on March 6, 2011.

And last (but never least), a huge thank you to our piano parents for supporting our students with lessons, extra rehearsals and excitement in order to make this unique project a success. Note to Students: I was never more proud of your accomplishments in reading, improvisation and performance as I am today. You all deserve genuine applause sans banana peels, sword fights, falling chandeliers and cannons on the loose ...



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## Sample Lesson Plan for a Three-Day Silent Movie Cartoon Workshop

*Have ready:*

Pencils

Blank Cue Sheets

Clipboards for support while writing

Stop watch or smartphone

Prepare to give a brief introduction on the history of Silent Film. Include a discussion of Pantomime, use of gestures, Intertitle cards and cue sheets. Discuss that almost immediately silent movies used live music to help communicate meaning and emotion.

Prepare to give a short history of Walt Disney studios and the beginning of Mickey Mouse cartoons.

Upload Steamboat Willie and Plane Crazy by subscribing to the Disney channel online, keeping in mind that Disney copyrights these and fair use is for educational purposes only.

Decide before the workshop if you think a particular piece(s) of music that would help create a music score for these silent movies such as “Turkey in the Straw” which is used in the original score of Steamboat Willie. Be ready to assign to a student.

Feelings Flash Cards or some hand made memory tool to use while watching scenes from silent movies: Feelings Flash Cards by Todd Parr, published by Chronicle Books are \$10 and available from Wal-Mart or on Amazon.

Ask students to bring their current and some of their previous music books with them to the first day.

### **FIRST DAY: 2 HOURS**

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Ask students to List the things in your studio that would not have been invented yet in 1910 (the start of silent movie making.)

Give a short introduction to the history of silent film and the beginning of Walt Disney’s Mickey Mouse cartoons.

Using your computer to stream from You Tube or stream the cartoon through Appletv or purchase the Dvd/burn a Dvd if you have a Dvd player hooked up to your TV, watch your movie of choice, running time about 6 minutes.

Watch your movie again but this time go scene-by-scene and stop to record the action and emotion of each clip. Use Feelings flashcards to give students ideas.

Start to fill in the cue sheet with short descriptions of each scene.

Ask students to come prepared the next day with music suggestions from their repertoire.

### **SECOND DAY: 2 HOURS**

---

Begin by asking students to suggest pieces from their own repertoire for each scene on the cue sheet.

Watch to make sure that each student has a chance to play and that for the most part, students playing times are equal.

Watch the film again, scene by scene, while students try out pieces to match the emotion and the action.

Watch the film again, while students play their pieces and using a stopwatch or the timing track of the movie, determine how long the scene is and how much music to use. Mark down length of scenes in seconds on the cue sheet. And determine approximately the amount of music each student will perform to match their scene.



# **TEACHING WITH SILENT MOVIES IN THE MUSIC STUDIO**

Penny Lazarus Piano Studio · 313 Merrimac Street · Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950

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## **Sample Lesson Plan for a Three-Day Silent Movie Cartoon Workshop (cont.)**

Working as a group, determine if additional rhythm instruments for sound effects are needed and if the sound score could use improvisation or original composing.

Using two pianos or keyboards, students alternate as they practice a first run through.

Students practice their pieces at home for the next day.

Teacher prepares final cue sheets and emails these to each performer ahead of time.

### **THIRD DAY**

Prepare and update final cue sheets before students arrive, assigning alternating students to piano keyboard Number 1 or 2.

Rehearsals and adjustments.

Performance and Video Taping: Make sure that the pre-recorded music from the original movie is turned off. Turn off all cell phones. Assign someone not involved in the performance to manage the video recording.

If there is time before students leave, download the video so that everyone can watch and listen to their video with their original sound track! Otherwise post your studio video to You Tube on a personal channel.