

# Musical Style Suggestions for 3 Logline Scenes: Exploring the Possibilities

For this assignment, I chose Loglines No. 1, 2, and 5 because each was distinct enough. I chose Logline No. 2 for my composition this week.

## Logline No. 1:

A group of kids embark on an adventure to find a treasure. It's the summer of 1959 in Castlerock, Maine, and four 12-year-old boys are fast friends. After learning of the general location of the body of a local boy who has been missing for several days, they set off into the woods to see it. Along the way, they learn about themselves, the meaning of friendship, and the need to stand up for what is right.

## Reviewing Multiple Styles:

For Logline No. 1, given the vibes of "Stranger Things" or "The Goonies" and the themes of adventure, nostalgia, friendship, self-discovery, and moral growth, the following film scoring styles can be effectively used to capture the essence of the scene:

Influenced by Aaron Copland, the **Americana style** uses open and vast harmonic language based on 5th and 4th intervals, creating an opportunistic, positive, and bold sound. It is perfect for evoking a sense of nostalgia and adventure in a rural American setting. An excellent example of this style is Jerry Goldsmith's score for "Rudy." The key elements include open major triads paired with 5ths and 4ths, a wide and proud sound, and the use of the Mixolydian mode for an uplifting and elevating quality.

A traditional orchestral score focusing on nostalgic elements using **leitmotifs** to represent characters and themes can create a warm, inviting atmosphere and help build a strong emotional connection with the characters and their journey. Jerry Goldsmith's score for "Stand by Me" is a prime example of this style. It features strings, woodwinds, and gentle brass as well as memorable leitmotifs for friendship and adventure, and lush orchestration.

Incorporating acoustic guitar, mandolin, and other folk instruments to evoke the period and rural setting gives the score a grounded, earthy feel, reflecting the innocence and simplicity of childhood adventures. Mychael Danna's score for "Little Miss Sunshine" exemplifies this approach. The key elements include simple, melodic themes played on acoustic instruments, light percussion, and a folk-inspired approach.

A **minimalist ambient** approach can underscore the introspective and emotional aspects of the journey without overwhelming the dialogue and natural sounds, creating a subtle, reflective

atmosphere. Thomas Newman's score for "The Shawshank Redemption" is a good example of this style. It features sparse piano or guitar melodies, soft strings, and ambient pads.

Using a **long-form thematic score** in a classical style, where themes are developed over longer phrases, creates an emotional and nostalgic narrative. This style helps build a deep connection with the audience through its continuous thematic development. John Williams' score for "E.T." is an excellent example. The key elements include gentle, flowing piano melodies with minimal accompaniment from strings or subtle synth pads, through-composed thematic development, and an emphasis on emotional undertones.

### Implementation of Multiple Styles:

For the opening of the adventure, an Americana style with acoustic and folk influences would work well. Starting with a light, playful theme featuring acoustic guitar, mandolin, and light percussion can set an adventurous and hopeful tone as the kids begin their journey. Using open major triads and intervals of 5ths and 4ths can create a sense of optimism and vastness.

As the story progresses into the discovery and reflection phase, a minimalist ambient score would be fitting. Transitioning to a more reflective, ambient score with gentle piano, soft strings, and ambient pads can underscore the challenges the kids encounter and their learning experiences. Keeping the music subtle and introspective will allow the emotional moments to shine.

During the emotional climax, a leitmotif-based orchestral score can effectively capture the intensity and significance of the key moments. Using a fuller orchestral arrangement with strong, emotive themes can underscore the moments of self-discovery and the deepening of their friendship. Employing memorable leitmotifs will highlight the bond between the characters and their growth.

For the resolution, a long-form thematic score can provide a satisfying conclusion. Returning to the nostalgic, acoustic theme with a through-composed approach can bring a sense of closure and reflection on the adventure they've just experienced. Using gentle, flowing piano melodies and soft strings will create a warm, reflective atmosphere, tying the narrative together emotionally.

### Choosing Only One Style:

If I had to choose one style only, I'd probably go with a **leitmotif-based orchestral score** for the entire story arc of Logline No. 1 due to its rich emotional depth, versatility, and timeless quality. This style allows for a wide range of emotional expression through orchestral instruments, which can beautifully capture the innocence, excitement, and eventual emotional growth of the characters. Leitmotifs can represent key characters, relationships, and moments, making the music more engaging and helping the audience to emotionally connect with the story.

Moreover, an orchestral score can range from light and playful to deep and reflective, matching the different phases of the boys' journey. This versatility ensures that the music enhances the narrative at every stage. Additionally, the orchestral approach has a timeless appeal that can evoke nostalgia and fit well with the 1950s setting without feeling outdated.

### Implementation of Only One Style:

The score would start with a light, playful theme using strings and woodwinds to set an adventurous and hopeful tone as the kids begin their journey. A memorable leitmotif representing the friendship and excitement of the adventure would be introduced here, creating a strong musical foundation.

As the kids encounter challenges and learn about themselves, the music transitions to more reflective themes with softer strings and gentle piano. The leitmotif would be varied to reflect their growing understanding and emotional depth, maintaining a cohesive musical thread while adapting to the evolving narrative. For the key moments of self-discovery and the deepening of their friendship, a fuller orchestral arrangement with a strong, emotive theme would be employed. The leitmotif can be expanded and developed to highlight the climax of their personal growth, providing a powerful emotional impact.

The score would return to a softer, more nostalgic version of the leitmotif to bring a sense of closure and reflection on the adventure. Warm strings and piano would create a reflective and emotionally satisfying ending, tying together the musical and narrative elements in a harmonious conclusion.

### Logline No. 2:

In a future world devastated by disease, a convict is sent back in time to gather information about the human-made virus that wiped out most of the human population on the planet.

### Reviewing Multiple Styles:

For Logline No. 2, depicting a dystopian future world devastated by disease with a convict sent back in time to gather information about a human-made virus, the film scoring style should evoke a sense of tension, urgency, mystery, and the bleakness of the future.

An electronic and synth-based score can effectively convey the futuristic, dystopian setting and the tension of the mission. An example of this style is Vangelis' score for "Blade Runner," which uses synthesizers, electronic pulses, and atmospheric pads to create a cold, futuristic soundscape that emphasizes the high-tech, dystopian world.

A hybrid orchestral score incorporating industrial sounds and electronic elements can capture the bleakness and urgency of the scenario. Hans Zimmer's score for "Inception" exemplifies this approach with deep, resonant strings, driving percussion, and industrial sound design to create a sense of urgency and tension.

A minimalist and ambient score can underscore the desolation and mystery of the future world, as well as the convict's mission. Jóhann Jóhannsson's score for "Arrival" is a good example, featuring sparse piano, ambient drones, and subtle electronic textures to create an eerie and reflective atmosphere.

A dark orchestral score can provide a sense of gravity and seriousness to the narrative, emphasizing the stakes and the bleakness of the world. Max Richter's score for "Ad Astra" achieves this with low strings, brass, and percussion to create a brooding, intense atmosphere, with occasional dissonant harmonies to evoke tension and unease.

An experimental and avant-garde approach can underscore the strangeness and complexity of the time-travel mission and the dystopian setting. Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross' score for "The Social Network" illustrates this style with unconventional instruments, found sounds, and innovative recording techniques to create a unique and unsettling soundscape.

### Implementation of Multiple Styles:

The scene would start by using deep, resonant synth pads and sparse, haunting melodies to establish the bleak, devastated future world, incorporating industrial sounds to emphasize the harshness of the environment.

For the mission and time travel, transition to a more intense, driving theme with pulsating electronic rhythms and dissonant strings to underscore the urgency and danger of the mission. While gathering information, use a minimalist, ambient approach with subtle electronic textures and distant, echoing piano or strings to create a sense of mystery and tension. For moments of reflection, incorporate a softer, more reflective theme with ambient pads and gentle piano to underscore the emotional weight of the mission and the convict's personal journey.

Finally, the score would return to the intense, driving theme with a mix of orchestral and electronic elements to build towards the climax of the mission, then resolve with a somber, ambient outro to reflect the ongoing struggle and uncertainty of the future.

### Choosing Only One Style:

If I had to choose one style that encapsulates the entire arc of the story for Logline No. 2, I would choose the hybrid orchestral with industrial elements style. This approach effectively balances the need for emotional depth, tension, and the bleak, futuristic setting, making it versatile enough to cover all aspects of the narrative.

A hybrid orchestral score incorporating industrial sounds and electronic elements captures the bleakness and urgency of the scenario, creating a powerful and immersive soundscape. Hans Zimmer's score for "Inception" exemplifies this style, using deep, resonant strings, driving percussion, and industrial sound design to evoke a sense of urgency and tension. This approach allows for a rich, emotional expression through orchestral instruments while integrating the cold, mechanical feel of a dystopian future with electronic and industrial sounds.

## Implementation of Only One Style:

For the opening of the dystopian world, deep, resonant synth pads, and sparse, haunting melodies can establish the bleak, devastated future. Industrial sounds can emphasize the harshness of the environment.

During the mission and time travel, the score can transition to more intense, driving themes with pulsating electronic rhythms and dissonant strings to underscore the urgency and danger. When the convict gathers information, a minimalist, ambient approach with subtle electronic textures and distant, echoing strings can create a sense of mystery and tension. For moments of reflection, incorporating softer, more reflective themes with ambient pads and gentle strings can underscore the emotional weight of the mission and the convict's journey.

Finally, returning to the intense, driving theme with a mix of orchestral and electronic elements can build towards the climax of the mission, resolving with a somber, ambient outro to reflect the ongoing struggle and uncertainty of the future.

## Logline No. 5:

A poor yet passionate young man falls in love with a rich young woman, giving her a sense of freedom, but they are soon separated because of their social differences.

## Reviewing Multiple Styles:

For a scene that focuses on themes of love, freedom, and social differences, the film scoring style should evoke deep emotional resonance, longing, and the tension of their separation. One effective approach is to use a long-form thematic score, highlighting strings and piano to capture the romance and emotional intensity of the relationship. An example of this style is John Williams' score for "E.T.," which features gentle, flowing piano melodies, minimal accompaniment from strings, through-composed thematic development, and an emphasis on emotional undertones.

A minimalist approach with piano and strings can underscore the intimacy and emotional depth of the characters' relationship, similar to Yann Tiersen's score for "Amélie." This style uses simple, emotive piano themes complemented by solo strings or a small string ensemble to convey both the tenderness and the sorrow of their love story. Drawing from the classic Hollywood tradition, a grand and expressive score can evoke the timeless nature of their romance. Max Steiner's score for "Gone with the Wind" is a prime example, featuring full orchestral arrangements with soaring melodies, rich harmonies, and dramatic crescendos to heighten the emotional impact of their love and separation.

Incorporating acoustic guitar, mandolin, and other folk instruments can provide a sense of simplicity and authenticity, reflecting the young man's background. Gustavo Santaolalla's score for "Brokeback Mountain" exemplifies this approach with gentle acoustic guitar or mandolin melodies with minimal accompaniment to evoke a sense of warmth, simplicity, and deep

emotional connection. A blend of traditional orchestral music with light modern elements like subtle electronic textures can provide a contemporary touch while maintaining the emotional core. Dario Marianelli's score for "Pride & Prejudice" demonstrates this style by combining orchestral strings and piano with light electronic pads or subtle ambient sounds to add a modern twist to the romantic narrative.

### Implementation of Multiple Styles:

I would start the scene, with the introduction of their love, using a tender, lyrical theme played by solo piano or acoustic guitar, gradually building with the addition of strings to underscore the development of their relationship. For moments of freedom and joy, transition to a more uplifting, melodic theme featuring full strings and woodwinds, capturing the times when they feel free and happy together.

During their separation and longing, employ a somber, minimalist approach with solo piano or a small string ensemble to convey the pain and longing of their separation. Finally, for the resolution, return to the original romantic theme but in a more subdued and reflective arrangement, perhaps with a solo instrument like a cello or violin, to represent the enduring nature of their love despite the social barriers.

### Choosing Only One Style:

If I had to choose one style to encompass the entire arc of the story, I would choose the long-form thematic score. This style is versatile and capable of capturing the full emotional range of the story, from tender moments of intimacy to the dramatic tension of their separation. A long-form thematic score can effectively convey the deep emotional resonance, longing, and tension central to the narrative. It offers lush strings, expressive piano melodies, and gentle woodwinds, which are perfect for creating a sense of romance and yearning. This approach allows for the use of leitmotifs to represent the characters and their evolving relationship, providing a strong emotional thread throughout the story.

### Implementation of Only One Style:

Starting with the introduction of their love, the score would use a tender, lyrical theme played by solo piano or strings, gradually building with the addition of other orchestral elements to underscore the development of their relationship. For moments of freedom and joy, the music can transition to a more uplifting, melodic theme featuring full strings and woodwinds, capturing the happiness they feel together.

During their separation and longing, the score can shift to a somber, minimalist orchestration with solo piano or a small string ensemble to convey the pain and longing of their separation. Finally, for the resolution, the music can return to the original romantic theme in a more subdued and reflective arrangement, perhaps highlighting a solo instrument like a cello or violin, to represent the enduring nature of their love despite the social barriers.

