

**Filmmaking**



# The scoring chain

A guide to film scoring  
for filmmakers

by Sebastian Oswald



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# Introduction

Film scoring often still appears to be a mysterious black hole to many filmmakers. How do you find the right composer for the job? How do you guide them to find the right music for the respective project? How do you even know what you want and then figure out how to articulate it?

In this eBook, we will present a novel approach known as the “Scoring Chain”, a comprehensive guide to the basic questions regarding the process of film scoring, from finding the right composer to delivering the final product.

The “Scoring Chain” is a collection of experience-based methods that have been proven to work successfully . It is designed for any director or producer looking for a music composer.

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# Finding the right composer

## Casting is everything

The process of scoring a project works like a funnel and it all starts with finding the right composer. Like finding the right actor for a role, often choosing a composer is based on intangibles.

## So, how to find the right composer?

Easy: keep your ears open whenever you listen to music, may it be the music of a show, a movie, a commercial, a theatre piece. If you like the music (at this stage, taste is everything), listen to samples from the composer's website. Get a feeling for the "composer's handwriting", their signature sound. This is vital, as a good film composer can adapt to different genres,

however, the signature sound won't change. From this, create a list of composers to consider for your film project.



While this involves a bit of online legwork that may consume a large amount of time, it's definitely worth the investment. You will save yourself enormous amounts of time and energy in the long run if you get this first part right.

As a film director, whether you're currently working on a project or considering your next one, make the research a constant routine. More importantly, begin your research as soon as the project is confirmed. There's no such thing as too much time when it comes to finding someone for such an important position. Keep a repository of composers for genres such as jazz, rock, flamenco, etc. You'll know whom to call in advance when you need an expert in a particular category .