



Dr Patricia Wheeler

Saxophonist, Jazz Band Director

Music Educator
Ryerson University and Centennial College

The Magic of Music in Film:

The Why and How of Film Music

Dr. Patricia Wheeler brought a wealth of experience as a musician (she plays the saxophone professionally as well as the piano), composer and teacher to her multi-media presentation. Her explanations and demonstrations using film clips showed us the vital role music plays alongside the visuals to advance or dramatize a story. After watching curated clips from *The Bride of Frankenstein*, we developed an understanding of the term “leitmotif”. Many of us can’t get the two notes signaling the advance of the shark in *Jaws* out of our heads!

We will never watch a movie without thinking about what the music is trying to convey to us, whether that be a hidden emotion, a significant visual cue, setting the mood or any of the other nine functions of film music. Patricia’s highly interactive talk was that rare blend of engaging, informative and entertaining. We certainly have a better appreciate for the complexities of scoring films and how integral music is to our enjoyment of movies. Our members were mesmerized, and we thank Patricia for sharing her time with us.

Written by Kathy Wosnick for the CFUW A/N Program Committee