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# Of Gods and Monsters: Signification in Franz Waxman's film score Bride of Frankenstein

#### Clive McClelland

## Table 1. Composers of music used in early horror movie soundtracks

<u>Title</u>	Year	Director	Music
Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde	1931	Rouben Mamoulian	Bach, Lanner, Schumann etc.
Svengali	1931	Archie Mayo	Mendoza
Dracula	1931	Tod Browning	Tchaikovsky, Wagner, Schubert
Frankenstein	1931	James Whale	Kaun, Becce
Murders in the Rue Morgue	1932	Robert Florey	Tchaikovsky
The Monster Walks	1932	Frank R. Strayer	Dunworth
The Old Dark House	1932	James Whale	Broekman
The Mummy	1932	Karl Freund	Dietrich, Tchaikovsky, Roemheld etc.
The Invisible Man	1933	James Whale	Roemheld
King Kong	1933	Cooper/Schoedsack	Steiner
The Vampire Bat	1933	Frank R. Strayer	Bakaleinikoff, Brunelli, Dunworth
The Black Cat	1934	Edgar G. Ulmer	Roemheld, Liszt, Bach, Chopin, Tchaikovsky etc.
Werewolf of London	1935	Stuart Walker	Hajos
The Bride of Frankenstein	1935	James Whale	Waxman
Condemned to Live	1935	Frank R. Strayer	Broekman, Dunworth
The Raven	1935	Lew Landers	Vaughan, Harling, Roemheld
Mad Love	1935	Karl Freund	Tiomkin
The Invisible Ray	1935	Lambert Hillyer	Waxman
Dracula's Daughter	1936	Lambert Hillyer	Roemheld, Chopin
The Phantom Ship	1936	Jack King	Brown, Spencer

### Table 2. Bride of Frankenstein Cue Sheet (with timings and notes)

No	Title	Time	Notes	
1	Main title	0:13	Assembled from motifs 1), 2) and 3)	
			No resolution, fade to storm FX	
2	Prologue	1:46	18C-style minuet, galant, string 4tet	
		2:31	Celeste echo "She is an angel"	
		3:52	Flashback	
		4:33	Minuet reprise, pizz ending, unresolved trem	
3	Monster entrance	7:32	Plaintive ob solo	
		8:09	1) for attacks by Monster	
		9:27	Horn call for rider	
4	Processional march	9:35	Funeral march, C min, sighs, dots	
		10:48	Str trem, then 1) for report of Monster's attacks	
		11:00	Funeral march with plagal ending	

5	A strange apparition	12:05	[FX 'Big Ben' chimes]
5	A strange appartion	12:05	Ob uses inv 3) for Elizabeth, harps, building tension
6	Pretorius' entrance	14:44	2) then trem chord, with wind FX. Several repetitions
7	You'll need a coat	18:52	Scurrying trem strings & timps, then 2)
,		20:15	2) again as Pretorius brings in box
8	Bottle sequence	21:05	Queen – trpt fanfare, ww echo
_	1	21:17	King – trb fanfare, comic ww echo
		21:37	Archbishop – organ chords
		21:48	Devil – high comic picc
9	Spring song	22:38	Ballerina – ob with strange harp chords
	(Mendelssohn)	22:49	Mermaid – tuba added
		22:57	Snatch of 'Children' theme, then trem
10	Female monster music	24:15	3) organ vib, strs, harp
11	Pastorale		[FX bleating lambs, sheepbells]
		24:30	Fl melody with arpegg harp (Impressionist/pastoral style)
		25:04	Horn diss when Monster sees reflection
		25:28	Urgent chords as shepherdess screams
		26:03	1) refs, fast, fragmented
	x 7'11	26:12	Fanfare motif for pursuing hunter
12	Village	26:17	General turmoil
12	Classica i	26:41	'Heroic' theme – brass fanfare, marching rhythm
13	Chase music	26:49	1) var, fast str motif, ends on unresolved diss
14	Crucifixion	28:12	1) var, high ww trills answered by brass triplets
		28:35	'Heroic' theme faster, triumphant (incl Neap)
15	Monster breaks out	29:06 30:19	'Heroic' theme slower for dungeon
15	Monster breaks out	30:19	String trem, chrom asc, accel Scurrying strs, ww trills, then chase music as he escapes
		30.43 31:46	1) [with FX tolling bell]
16	Ave Maria (Schubert)	33:21	Diegetic vl solo (blind man), interrupted [hermit refs]
17	Ave Maria (Schubert)	34:35	VI solo resumes, breaks off as Monster enters
17	Ave Maria (Schubert)	36:18	Non-diegetic organ vib fades in
10	Twe Maria (Benubert)	37:50	Joined by non-diegetic vl solo for prayer
19	Children theme	41:11	Diegetic vl solo, jaunty folk-like melody
20	Fire in the hut	42:08	Cl trem, then 1)
		42:22	Faster as flames take hold
		42:39	'Children' theme non-diegetic as children appear outside
		42:44	Chrom asc strs, unresolved
21	Graveyard	42:49	Slow, eerie, ob 1) in aug, trem accpt
	-	43:34	Bass added as pursuers appear
22	Dance Macabre	46:32	Parody waltz for feast in the vault
23	Female monster music	48:46	2) ref at end of waltz "Woman, friend, wife"
24	Monster enters No 2	50:34	1) slow on trbs, trem strs, then hns, then trps
			Angular cl line as link to
25	Monster theme	51:08	Restless vl theme over stacc bass, fugato
		51:23	Falling 8ve theme [rel to 3)], asc seq, dotted fig
		51:48	1) at end "Now!" (menacing)
26	In the tower	51:56	Sust high trem over desc chrom
	-	52:35	Asc trem strs as Monster enters
*	[In the cave]	53:48	1) slowly over V ped in F min, trem, harp swirls
27	Creation Part 1	54:34	
28	Monster theme	57:42	Extended devpt of motifs etc.
29	Creation Part 1	59:56	IG., 17,11, 21
30	Female monster music	61:02	[See Table 3]
31	Creation Part 2	62:13	
32	Explosion End title	70:09	3) then asc chrom, unresolved
33		71:05	() then as a prom upresolued

\* This scene was evidently inserted at a later stage, but before the preview

No	Title	Time	Notes
27 Creation Part 1		54:34	Desc aug triads over pizz bass for preparations
		55:14	Diegetic irregular timp for heartbeat, low chords
		56:39	Murder, trem strs and chrom desc, and regular timp for victim
		57:01	Regular timp for new heart, trem strs
28	28Monster theme57:42		1) muted as Monster enters, F min. Regular muffled timp
		57:59	3) var and dotted fig from 2) as Pretorius drugs Monster, then
		58:58	1)
			3) var for Elizabeth, still with regular timp (now part of music)
29	Creation Part 1	59:56	Slow asc chords, high str trem
30	Female monster music	61:02	3) on organ vib, then 3) var on strs
31	Creation Part 2	62:13	Falling phrase as equipment is lowered, 3) refs, low cl
		65:03	1) as Monster appears on roof
		65:39	3) triumphant, fast 2-note timps = two non-diegetic heartbeats
		66:34	sf brass chord as eyes revealed, desc chords as she is raised
		66:51	3), then trem strs and fast timps
		67:29	"The Bride of Frankenstein" 3) with wedding bells
		68:00	1) for entry of Monster, 3) on brass, alternation
		68:37	After her scream, ang, fast strs, disjointed
		68:51	3) as Monster attempts to woo her
		69:18	3) var as Elizabeth enters
		69:24	Tension builds, snarling brass over ped
		70:01	1) with tritone, as Monster pulls lever
32	Explosion	70:09	1) fast chrom desc, falling phrases with tower, 3) var
		70:43	3) as Frankenstein and Elizabeth reunited.

## **Table 3. The Creation of the Bride**