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Cosmos Laundromat: First Cycle

Independent Music Supervision Case Study

The Project

Film:

Cosmos Laundromat: First Cycle — Blender Studio

Project type:

Independent, speculative music supervision exercise

Role:

Music supervisor (self-directed case study)

The challenge

Develop an alternative musical treatment for the animated short film, supporting Franck's emotional journey without compromising the dialogue, sound design, or natural tension of the story.

The approach

Preserve the dialogue-driven opening without music, allowing the characters and their performances to establish the emotional stakes. Introduce music as Victor initiates Franck's transformation, building from anticipation into an uplifting, cathartic climax. Use a deliberate transition into silence before introducing a final musical statement that suggests hope and new beginnings.

The deliverables

- Music spotting and creative rationale
- Music research, shortlist development and cue selection
- Music-to-picture editing and final re-scored video
- Preliminary licensing and clearance assessment

03 Creative Brief

Narrative arc

Franck begins the film in despair, contemplating the end of his life. His encounter with Victor leads to an extraordinary and frightening transformation, ultimately revealing the possibility of a new beginning.

Musical direction

Seek emotionally expressive, cinematic music with a strong sense of progression. For the transformation sequence, prioritise tracks capable of developing from a restrained opening into an uplifting climax. For the ending, explore hopeful and atmospheric options that provide emotional continuity without making the narrative feel conclusively resolved.

Emotional objectives

Establish tension through restraint:

Allow the opening dialogue, performances and sound design to carry the emotional weight without musical intervention.

Introduce anticipation:

Bring music in as Victor prepares the cassette, suggesting that something significant is about to happen.

Reframe fear as liberation:

Use uplifting music to contrast Franck's terror, allowing the audience to sense hope and possibility beneath the apparent danger.

Build towards transformation:

Develop musical intensity alongside the action, reaching a powerful climax as Franck is drawn into the tornado.

Create a moment of release:

Use an abrupt musical stop and silence to mark the transition into Franck's new reality.

Conclude with optimism:

Introduce a final cue that offers emotional resolution while suggesting the story is only beginning.

04 Spotting Notes

SCENE #	MUSIC FUNCTION	USAGE	TIMING	SCENE DESCRIPTION	MUSIC NOTES/CREATIVE RATIONALE	SYNC & MASTER NOTES
1	Opening titles	N/A	0:00 - 0:16	Opening title sequence	No music recommended	N/A
2	No music/dialogue only	-	0:16 - 2:19	Opening sequence, Franck attempts to hang himself, but the tree breaks. He then drags himself toward the cliff's edge	No music recommended. Character performance carries the narrative. Adding music risks overemphasising emotions and weakening the natural tension	N/A
3	Dialogue	-	2:20 - 5:57	Victor appears and initiates a conversation with Franck	No music recommended. Character dialogue carries the narrative and music would distract from it	N/A
4	Featured music/introduction and gradual build	BV	5:58 - 6:33	Victor walks away from Franck and rewinds a cassette tape, Franck looks meaningfully at the rope	Yemwe in at 6:00 introducing a gradual build as Victor walks away and rewinds the cassette tape. The music should build anticipation before the audience knows exactly what is changing	Composition and master recording clearance required. Rights holders to be researched.
5	Featured music/gradual build	BV	6:34 - 7:42	Victor plays the tape and looks toward the sky as the sky darkens and a colourful rainbow tornado forms	Music continues with a gradual build, becoming increasingly uplifting. It should make the audience feel hopeful despite the fear of not knowing what's coming	Composition and master recording clearance required. Rights holders to be researched.
6	Continuation of featured music/building intensity	BV	7:43 - 8:05	Franck starts running from the rainbow tornado and looks fearful	Music from scene 4 continues and increases intensity, urgency, and rhythmic momentum as Franck runs. It should counter Franck's terrified expression by making it feel liberating, signifying a major transformation	Composition and master recording clearance required. Rights holders to be researched.
7	Featured music/climax	BV	8:06 - 8:39	Franck is sucked into the tornado as Victor watches and the other sheep gather	Reach the musical climax as Franck is pulled into the tornado, then come to an abrupt stop at 8:39. The thunderclap should coincide precisely with the music stopping to emphasize the dramatic transition.	Composition and master recording clearance required. Rights holders to be researched.
8	Transition	-	8:40 - 8:43	The image cuts to black	Test abrupt music stop and silence versus sustained musical decay into black. Consider whether a subtle atmospheric transition would better support the next scene. An abrupt stop and silence are preferable to a sustained musical decay into black. The thunderclap at 8:39 creates a natural transition into silence.	N/A
9	No music/ambience and SFX only	-	8:44 - 9:18	Franck wakes up as a caterpillar and looks around at a new world in awe	The character's breathing and sounds convey his awe, no music recommended	N/A
10	No music / sound effects only	BI	9:19 - 10:02	The image zooms out into a spinning washing machine and reveals a laundromat, Victor falls dramatically out of a washing machine and starts to light a cigarette before rushing off	Brother enters at 9:59. Its opening pulse complements the rhythmic movement of the washing machines, connecting the music to the scene before carrying the emotional resolution into the credits.	Composition and master recording clearance required. Rights holders to be confirmed.
11	SFX/featured music introduction	BI	10:03 - 12:11	"To be continued" screen and end credits	The track used should become mellow without being sad and make the audience feel hopeful about Franck's future. It fades to silence at 12:11.	Composition and master recording clearance required. Rights holders to be confirmed.

The Search



Where I Searched

Spotify, YouTube, my personal music library, Musicbed and Universal Production Music.



Search Approach

Searched for contrasting emotional directions, from melancholy and uncertainty to wonder, liberation and hope.

Used targeted search terms like cinematic indie, organic percussion, ethereal vocals, emotional crescendo, and cinematic choir



Testing Against Picture

Shortlisted tracks were tested repeatedly at different entry points, evaluating emotional impact, lyrical suitability, musical development, climaxes and scene transitions.

Tornado Sequence Options



1. *Yemwe* – Judah Earl & Odeta

Liberation through transformation

An uplifting, gradually building piece with epic, choir-like vocals and joyful violin textures. Its scale suggests a profound, life-altering change, reframing Franck's terror as something potentially beautiful, though its late musical peak raised questions about how it would support his running sequence.



2. *Maasai* – Hans Johnson

Uncertainty evolving into catharsis

A distinctive, unexpected choice. Its pensive introduction builds anticipation, and the emotional release unfolds gradually rather than in one dramatic peak. The timing works particularly well across the cut to black, offering a sustained catharsis in place of Yemwe's pronounced climax: a creative alternative rather than a weaker placement.

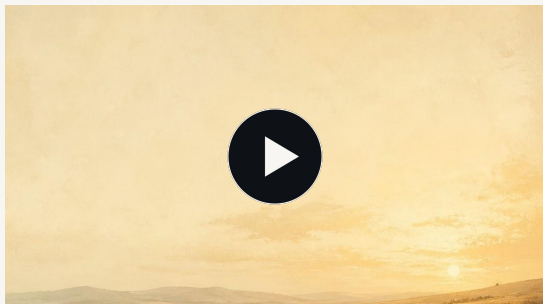


3. *The Highlands* – Marcus Warner

Reflection, beauty and emotional resolution

A slow, beautiful build, with pensive notes complementing Franck's glance toward the noose. The lyric "carried home" and a Scottish vocal that echoes the island's Highland-like landscape add emotional depth. Strong timing and a natural ending, though it gives the sequence a more reflective, place-specific character than Yemwe.

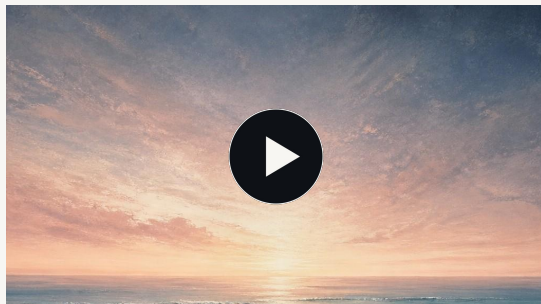
End Credits Options



1. *Hopeful Horizons – Filmic Folk 3*

Gentle optimism and reassurance

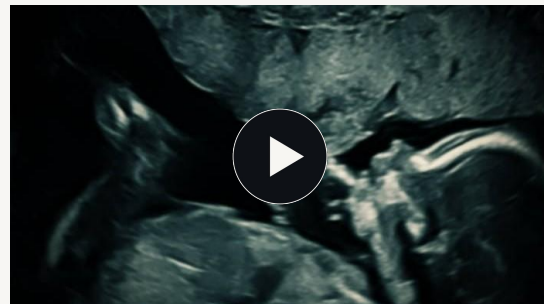
A gentle but uplifting choice that brings warmth to the ending. Its softer character lets the audience settle after the intensity of Franck's transformation, leaving them with comfort and hope. Its appeal is primarily emotional rather than tied to a specific synchronization moment in the laundromat scene.



2. *Arrival – Avery Bright & RØRE*

A new beginning

An atmospheric, instrumental choice that gives the ending a sense of possibility rather than finality. Its spacious quality reinforces the mystery of Franck's transformation and creates an open-ended resolution, fitting for a film that ends with the promise of continuation.



3. *Brother – Lights & Motion*

Hope, continuity and future adventures

Its heartbeat-like opening pulse syncs naturally with the thudding washing machines, tying the music to the physical environment before it builds to a hopeful, uplifting conclusion. It carries the emotional resolution into the credits and continues the hope established by Yemwe, suggesting Franck's transformation marks the start of further adventures.

the decisions



Tornado Sequence

Yemwe was selected for its ability to reinterpret Franck's fear as the beginning of something transformative. While the other tracks offered compelling timing, atmosphere and emotional possibilities, Yemwe's uplifting progression and powerful choral climax created the clearest expression of liberation at the sequence's dramatic peak.



End Credits

Brother was chosen because it works on both a technical and narrative level. Its opening rhythm complements the washing machines, while its emotional progression creates a satisfying conclusion without making the story feel definitively over. The heartbeat associated with new life accompanies Franck's emergence into a transformed existence.

Rights & Clearance

Yemwe — Judah Earl & Odeta

CATEGORY	FINDINGS
Track	Yemwe — Judah Earl & Odeta
Songwriters	Judah Isaac Earl; Odeta Mvuyekure
Publishing	Judah Earl Publishing (BMI); Mvuyekure Publishing (ASCAP)
Master recording	© 2020 879745 Records DK (DistroKid-associated credit)
Licensing representative	Musicbed (artist-directed licensing route)
Licensing type	Potential one-stop; subject to confirmation

Brother — Lights & Motion

CATEGORY	FINDINGS
Track	Brother — Lights & Motion
Songwriter	Christoffer Franzen
Publishing	MUSICA Publishing (potential representative; track-specific control unconfirmed)
Master recording	© 2025 Deep Elm Records
Licensing representative	Musicbed; Deep Elm Records

08 The Result

