

Indigenous

by Andrew Keeping



Dr Watson – This is my take on a soundtrack for a follow up series to *Sherlock Holmes*. Holmes (Violin) and great friend and protagonist Dr Watson (Cello) have an exchange during the middle section, suggesting the depth of their friendship, before the dramatic theme returns to close the credits.

Boardwalk Surf & Strut – a suave bronzed Hollywood star of the 1950's emerges from the surf and walks the length of the beach before strutting the Boardwalk. Refined, well dressed women discretely turn their heads in admiration in this nod to the Film Noir genre.

Passchendaele Lad – This cinematic tone poem was inspired by a trip with a friend, and our eldest sons, to the sombre and sobering battlefields of WW1. “Passchendaele Lad” tells the story of a young Lad from Yorkshire, England, who signs up with the British Army, and finds himself in Northern France/Belgium on one of the bloodiest campaigns of the 1st World War's Western Front.

With the heaviest rains for 75 years, combined artillery having pounded any form of irrigation structure to oblivion, the battlefields from Ypres to Passchendaele resembled a moonscape and quagmire. Trenches, mines and bunkers were of limited protection from the continuous artillery, bullets, and chlorine or mustard gas clouds. This was “hell on earth”! Not the glory that “Passchendaele Lad” anticipated when he signed up. His only momentary escape is when he falls asleep in the trenches from sheer exhaustion, thoughts drifting back to his homeland and the girl he left behind. This fleeting memory is soon jolted back into reality before ‘going over the top’, only to become yet another victim of the millions wiped out in the conflict. “Passchendaele Lad” rests amongst the thousands of graves at Tyne Cot Cemetery. Passchendaele, like Stalingrad or Sangin in later wars, is a name that sends a shiver down the spine for the sheer unfathomable numbers killed in the direst of circumstances. Officially known as the Third Battle of Ypres, Passchendaele became infamous not only for the scale of casualties, but also for the mud.

Agent B – A romantic theme leads to my secret agent vibe. Now you see me, now you don't!

A Dark Resplendence – A dedication to the music of Bernard Herrmann, this soundtrack accompanies a dark and sinister thriller.

Albion- My love of Albinoni's simple harmonies fused with my love of the English (Albion) countryside inspired this chilled guitar duet with orchestral accompaniment.

Receurdos! – (Recollections) A personal and nostalgic trip down memory lane, when I first toured Spain as a Concert Guitarist. My Flamenco dancing girlfriend, stunning beaches, Moorish history and of course endless food and drink with friends in the sunshine.

Minimalastic – This work was inspired by the pioneering Minimalist composers of the 1970's. Using guitar harmonics, effects, drum loops and filters, this is designed to play with your senses, creating a meditative state before the Minimalastic patterns build to a frenzy before *snapping* to a utopian space.

Indigenous – Deep beneath the earth, life begins and pushes to the surface seeking out the elements and creating the indigenous habitats for all life to thrive.

Jungle Fever – Watching my son playing a computer game deep in a jungle, I was transfixed by the science fiction-based battle taking place around ruined temples with hanging vines, a dense dripping canopy and giant electronic mosquitos! I went away and composed Jungle Fever and spent hours of fun designing the sounds and fx of my jungle critters.

After The Storm- Years ago, following a car accident, my best mate and I were recuperating in a friends villa along the Spanish coast. From the balcony, our morphine induced brains experienced one of the most breath-taking electric storms. To me, equally magical was the immediate aftermath as the storm disappears out to sea, leaving the floodwater to drain away, clouds jostle around to eventually reveal a glimpse of sunshine. This natural transformation had such a profound effect on the land and those that observed the spectacle.

Loves Labours' Found- Drawing on Shakespeare's themes of love and desire, reckoning and rationalization, and reality versus fantasy, this composition plays on the need to find the right love. Time is ticking!