

FEARLESS PERFORMANCE

Because life is live.

A quick, simple, easy way to create a story to match the music

When Canadian Brass would coach a chamber ensemble, we'd always point out there are only two types of music: love songs and pirate songs! That's it.

Not true of course, but it's a good story, and surprisingly more true than one would think! I've developed a process through which one can create a story to match any moment in any piece of music. Answer yourself these questions, dive in and try it, and then answer them again if it wasn't all you imagined it could be...repeat ad infinitum.

THE SCENE - THE CURTAIN OPENS.

What country are we in? Italy? Argentina? Egypt? Canada?

Daytime, nighttime, sunset, dawn, or...?

Indoors or outdoors?

Sunny, cloudy, rainy, snowy, or...?

What kind of place are we in? Bustling city or a meadow or...?

Specific details about your scenery? Near a river? At a circus? In a courtroom?

What approximate decade in history are we in? 1920's? 1770's?

THE CHARACTER – WE SEE PEOPLE!

One or two?

Male or female?

How old? In what decade of their life are they? Ambitious 30's? Reflective 70's?

Social status, occupation? Debutante, cheese monger, pig-farmer, opera singer?

What is/are the character(s) wearing? Uniform, tuxedo, hockey mask, hospital gown?

THE ACTION – SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN OR JUST DID!

Is the character coming from having done something, or going to do something?

What is the character coming from/going to? Funeral, lunch, war, biology class?

THE EMOTION – MOST IMPORTANT - WE FEEL SOMETHING THROUGH THE CHARACTER!!

How does the character feel about where they are going/coming from? Furious, ecstatic, disgusted, giddy, impudent, mischievous, suspicious, regretful, pompous, fearless...?

Put these story aspects on your 'Segues' (post-it notes)!

WHAT'S YOUR STORY? **Creating a performance narrative** *Written*

SET THE SCENE *the curtains opens....*

Country

Time of day

Indoors/Outdoors

Weather

Location

Time Period/Decade

REVEAL THE CHARACTER *who is that?!*

Male/Female

Age

Social Status/Occupation

Character's Appearance

THERE'S A SITUATION *what has happened or will happen?*

What is/was your character doing?

DRAMA *how do they feel?*

How does your character feel about their situation?