



Kubilay Üner

Biography

Munich-born, L.A.-based composer Kubilay Uner has bounced around the planet and through many musical genres, which explains a thing or two about his individual approach to music.

With numerous features and other music-to-picture scores to his credit, as well as a number of concert music works performed, Kubi is as comfortable in the concert hall as he is on the dubbing stage. "Whether the music is part of a film or stands on its own, my goal is to deliver an intense experience, one that completely immerses and transforms the listener. I believe a good piece of music should take you on a journey. That's what I want to achieve."

This idea was also at the core of Film2Music, an international competition where Kubi invited filmmakers the world over to create a film to a track from his CD, Cinematic. Ninety-four films were submitted, and the winners and highlights were screened at the 2007 Sundance Film festival.

To help intensify the dramatic effect of his music, Kubi started building his own instruments: A fretless banjo built from a cookie tin, a construction of 20-foot strings suspended over oil cans, a gamelan-style instrument made of marble tiles, and all manner of found objects that were never meant to make music. "It's amazing how expressive and unusual the simplest object can sound if you just record it right."

Some highly unorthodox processing techniques further enhance the transportive character of Kubi's music: Choir parts filtered through the sound of ocean waves, a live singer duplicating the intricate micro-tonal fluctuations of time-stretched vocal parts, water bubbles processed to sound like a steam-driven, retro-futuristic synthesizer. "In order to have the right impact, every process has to sound absolutely natural, as if there were no process at all."

Yet, traditional instruments remain ever-present in Kubi's work. He plays piano, bass and guitar, and collaborates with many accomplished instrumentalists, including LA piano legend Mike Lang. "I would never dream of abandoning traditional instruments. Like filmmakers who use actors and real sets as well as computer graphics to create their worlds, I use traditional instruments, custom creations, and original sound processes to create mine."

In addition to writing for concert, theater and film, Kubi has acted as a record producer and arranger for a range of artists, from soul legend Bobby Womack to Mexican-American chanteuse Perla Batalla. Active in the Los Angeles contemporary music scene, he produces a series of composer salons, with presenters ranging from Randy Newman to Mort Subotnick.