

understand *his* intended, explicit pretext to that composition. This means that our understanding of a composition by Franz Josef Haydn is enhanced when we understand the implicit, mostly masked, but still relevant pretext to *his* composition. This is program music. Speaking figuratively, and receptively, with regard to “program music” that goes beyond the official Groveian definitions, the program multiplies when we graft Liszt onto a text by Max Ophuls, such as *Letter from an Unknown Woman*, 1949, or when we add Haydn to a text by Louis Malle in *Lift to the Scaffold*, 1957. It multiplies even more when we apprehend the combination.⁴⁷

Program music has not heretofore been applied, at least in the present sense, to discussions about film music specifically, and cinematic intertextuality in general. Clearly, after my own appropriation and application of the term and its related principles, further discussion is required to more firmly situate it. But in this preliminary sense I deem it valid, and valuable, to urge the connection. Outside narratives and context inflect all musical experience. This is especially true of appropriated film music. The limitations of the program are not in any smothering it is supposed to do, but in not taking the concept far enough.

PROGRAM EVERYWHERE

[Some] have so broadened [programme’s] application as to use the term for all music that contains an extra-musical reference, whether to objective events or subjective feelings . . . [This application] is . . . so wide as to be virtually meaningless.⁴⁸

As with the counterpoint analogy, literal and figurative programs may differ. In dictionary terms, Scruton is arguably correct, but we are looking at the way that external musical, and film/musical context is *like* a program. We are looking at the way that programmatic elements, references, and allusions, with the associations and connotations connected to them, become the elements of contrapuntal and montage equations.⁴⁹ In these applications, the generalization works and we are on firm ground. There is ample support for this idea. This section will demon-