



Music Brief for 'Space Chase'

Our main goal for the music behind this piece is to encapsulate Parkour and the competitive nature of the narrative. So instead of following the usual route of fast-paced dance music, we've decided to explore a more acoustic sound.

What we are looking for is an organic form of Hip-hop. Imagine the tempo and rhythms of old-school Hip-hop filtered through an acoustic soundscape. With no sound originating from a computer or electronic device, no vocals, no samples and mostly formed with percussion instruments. It would create a unique sound.

Transferring it to live instruments is a musical way of reflecting the purity of Parkour. There are no strings, wires or visual effects involved when you see the physical feats achieved by free-runners. Thus, the music represents this by being free of anything synthetic.

Examples of this kind of sound include the alternative Hip-hop group IfWhat? And the French group Hocus Pocus. Not many Hip-hop artists plough their trade in this fashion because, as we all know, Hip-hop has merged with the mainstream and is now a part of it. It has become popular music and because of this has lost a great deal of its originality and meaning. Early Hip-hop was packed full of fresh ideas and held great significance to young people as both music and a sub-culture.

Parkour is very much a philosophy and a sub-culture as well as an 'urban sport'. Its followers refer to it as a discipline. So, in a way we feel Parkour mirrors the early beginnings of Hip-hop; both have a loose affinity to being anti-establishment. They have burgeoning communities that can only grow larger. They both have been mistrusted and mistreated by the mainstream media. They fascinate scores of youngsters. Both have been written off as passing 'fads' and now Parkour, just like early Hip-hop, is about to explode commercially.

We want our music design to reflect these social and cultural comparisons. And at the same time capture the energy inherent within the narrative. We believe the thumping beats and precision drumming will create an intriguing cradle for the piece.

Duncan & Pearson
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You can find out more information about 'Space Chase' at
www.spacechase.co.uk