

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background

Modern film or motion pictures have always been accompanied by music, either it is intentionally composed or expressly chosen to be the background of the motion pictures. Though audiences do not always recognize film music, it often carries a bigger role in evoking emotions than the images. Visual image alone may not affect the audiences emotionally, but it may evoke a deeper meaning by working together with music.

Through this paper, the writer analyzes the use of film music in *Hugo*, a film directed by Martin Scorsese in 2011. This film is an adventure family movie based on a children historical fiction book entitled *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick. Set in Paris in 1930s, the film tells a story about an orphaned boy who lives secretly behind the wall of Gare Montparnasse railway station, Hugo. He is a 12 years old son of a museum worker and watchmaker who works as a secret substitute for his uncle, who is a drinker, to maintain the station's clock. Being afraid that the station inspector will put him into an orphanage, he keeps his presence stays unknown and tries to survive by stealing food and milk. After his

father's death, Hugo desperately tries to fix a broken automaton which was his late father's most ambitious project. He believes that the automaton contains a message from his late father. Hugo then catches in a complicated trouble after he is caught stealing from Georges Melies, a toymaker in station.

The writer believes that *Hugo* (2011) uses film music in maximizing its power to fascinate audiences. When the film starts, audiences hear an accordion in the background. Being one of several European inventions in the early 19th century, the accordion contributes in creating a European atmosphere, making the audiences able to feel that the setting of the film is in Paris. Furthermore, the music fully creates a Parisian atmosphere from the beginning to the end of the film. This proves that the contribution of film music influences the emotional aspect of film. Watching one, same film in two different ways, with and without film music accompanying it, may give different experiences to the audiences. Clearly, music has been a great aspect in film. Thus, the writer aims to find out more on how film music contributes to make Martin Scorsese's *Hugo* captivating.

The writer is interested in finding out the functions of music in film because nowadays, film and music are inseparable. A good modern film tends to have distinctive music for its screen. The writer also realizes that music in film has a great role for the movie. Because, whenever she covers her ears during the movie, she feels less emotion toward the screen thus

make the movie feels flat. Even so, many people are still unaware of the presence of film music in movie.

## **1.2. Field of the Study**

The field of this study will be focused on literature, especially in film study.

## **1.3. Scope of the Study**

In this research, the writer uses film as her research object. Theory of film music is used as the research area to understand more on how the music works with the visual images to enhance the scenes in *Hugo* (2011).

## **1.4. Problem Formulation**

This research questions can be formulated as follows:

1. What is the music used in *Hugo*?
2. What are the functions of film music in the scenes of *Hugo*?

## **1.5. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of this study can be stated as follows:

1. To identify the music used in *Hugo*.
2. To find out the functions of film music in the scenes of *Hugo*.

## **1.6. Significance of the Study**

The result of this study is expected to help students in film subject to understand more about the role of music in a film.

### 1.7. Definition of Terms

There are few terms in this research that are needed to be explained to avoid confusion from the readers, they are:

1. Music

Music is vocal or instrumental sounds that is combined in such a way as to produce a beauty of form, harmony, and expression of emotion (Oxford University Press, 2017).

2. Rhythm

Rhythm refers to the organization of music through times. Its basic unit is the beat, a discernible pulse that marks out the passage of time (Kalinak, 2010, p. 12).

3. Harmony

Harmony has to do with the coordination of notes playing simultaneously through a certain combinations of chords to create “stress points built upon dissonance and resolutions that dissipate dissonance” (Kalinak, 2010, p. 12).

4. Film Music

Film music is music produced for the sake of the story of a film (Cohen, 2001, p. 264), or expressly chosen to accompany motion pictures (Kalinak, 2010)

