

MAX UNDERSTOOD SOUND AND MUSIC

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THE SOUND SYSTEM

The ideal sound system for MAX UNDERSTOOD consists of a minimum of twelve channels of effects and music playback using an Apple Mac, twelve-channel audio interface, Figure 53's Qlab 2 software, digital sound console, seven wireless microphones, in-ear monitoring system for five people, and ten speakers. The ten speakers are a stereo pair spaced evenly stage left and right upstage and behind the action, two specials (one for washing machine and one for the television), main left and right stereo pair, a center channel for vocals and other effects, a left and right stereo pair for surround behind the audience, and a subwoofer. The other two audio channels should feed a stereo monitoring system for live musicians and conductor. All Qlab outputs should be independent of the console's main left and right faders. There are seven actors in MAX UNDERSTOOD and each should have a wireless microphone. All live instruments are amplified using condenser microphones and imaged into the main left and right speakers.

THE MUSIC

The music of MAX UNDERSTOOD blends repetitive use of sound recordings with rhythmic synthesizer programs/pads and acoustic instruments. The acoustic instruments have been realized in our demos using representative sampled sounds. These instruments include violins, violas, cellos, bass, vibraphone, piano, guitar, celeste, glockenspiel, and toy piano.

A majority of songs from MAX UNDERSTOOD utilize violins, violas, cellos, and bass and in situations where a small "pit" of live musicians is available, a four-piece string section with the bass player doubling on acoustic guitar (three songs) will be the most useful. These four players may also have opportunity to play simple parts on auxiliary instruments like synth pads, toy piano, bells, vibraphone, etc. on some songs. There is an existing score preprogrammed in Qlab 2 with strings extracted so live players may perform those parts. All songs programmed in Qlab 2 contain a click track that is sent only to the conductor and string players' monitoring systems.

To maintain the "sound" of MAX UNDERSTOOD, it is imperative that most rhythmic synthesizer sequences and sound effects be triggered in show control software (Qlab 2) while acoustic instrumentalists play along following a click track.

Because of the nature of this music, some songs defy a useable piano reduction for rehearsal. Notation of all vocal parts and an "orchestral" score is available. In all past rehearsals of MAX UNDERSTOOD, actors have used demo recordings in rehearsals and to learn their parts. Demo recordings with and without vocals are provided and demos with synth leads representing vocal lines are also available. Rehearsals have used a blend of demo playback with a music director playing some things on piano from the orchestral score.

Below is a list of the songs from MAX UNDERSTOOD complete with characters and instruments.

NOISE SYMPHONY

MAX, Environmental recordings

MEET MAX AND MACHINE

MAX, President Toy, Rhythmic Synth Sequence, Synth Lead, Synth Arpeggio 1, Synth Arpeggio 2, Vibraphone, **Violins, Violas, Cellos, Bass**

NEGATIVITY

MOM, DAD, Television, Environmental Recordings, Piano, Vibraphone, **Violins, Violas, Cellos, Bass**

WHY CAN'T I BE NORMAL UNDERSCORE

Synth Pad, Piano, Vibraphone, Cellos

RIBBON

MOM, Washing Machine, Harp, Vibraphone, **Violas, Cellos, Bass**

KIDS AND CARS

FIN, PEG, ALBERT, Environmental Recordings, Synth Lead, Bells, **Violins, Violas, Cellos, Bass**

SHAPE YOUR WORLD

MUNC and KIDS, Phased Acoustic Guitar, Rhythmic Synth Sequences, Synth Arp, Synth Pad, Vibraphone, Piano, **Violins, Violas**

DREAM

PEG, MAX, MUNC and KIDS, Rhythmic Synth Sequences, Synth Lead Sampled Marching Drums, Toy Piano, Guitar, **Violins, Violas**

REACHING

DAD and MOM, Wind and Cicada Environmental Recordings, Desk Bell, Synth Arp 1, Synth Arp 2, Synth Lead, Synth Pad

RUSHED UP

MUNC, MAX, KIDS, President Toy, Sound Effects, Urban Sampled Drums, Synth Bass, Synth, Sampled Horns, **Violin**

SHUT UP

FIN and MAX,

HIS NAME IS MAX

DAD, MOM, KIDS, Guitar, President Toy, Synth Pad, Piano, Vibraphone, Celeste, **Violas, Cellos**

PRESS A BUTTON

DAD and KIDS, President Toy, Desk Bell, Clock, Wind Chimes, Static, Rhythmic Synth Sequences

CLOUD

MUNC and KIDS, Wind Chimes, Wind, Synth Pad, Sampled Vocal Pad

POWERFUL POWERLINES

MOM, Electric Sparks and Zaps Recordings, Synth Lead, Bells, **Violins, Violas, Cellos, Bass**

GET CLEAR

MOM, DAD, MUNC, Heartbeat Rhythmic Synth Sequences, Harp, Glockenspiel **Violins, Cellos**

POETRY

FIN and MAX, Water Recordings, Piano

THE WATER

Heartbeat, Water Recordings, Clock, Rhythmic Sequences, Synth Lead, Synth Pad 1, Synth Pad 2, Vibraphone, **Cellos**

THIS IS NORMAL

President Toy, Synth Pad, Piano, Vibraphone, **Cellos**