

Jason Mulligan's arrangement: "Penelo's Theme" -92/100-

Technique: Jason arranges "Penelo's Theme" in a very traditional, small ensemble style. The main theme is clearly present, with a few exaggerations and new variations to suite the instrumental choices. The way the melodies are tied together is done very nicely; in other words, this arrangement never sounds too random. Overall the technique is very straightforward and pleasant. (8/10)

Musicality: The style here is very similar to the original "Penelo's Theme" unfortunately. However Jason's does an excellent job at fitting all the different themes together and adding new ones himself. (9/10)

Personal Tilt: Jason's rendition of "Penelo's Theme" is defiantly my favorite among the numerous. I just love the progression and the way the melodies are tied together. However I would've loved to have seen someone take "Penelo's Theme" and do something a bit more risky. (7/10)

Will Buck's arrangement: "Penelo's Theme" -85/100-

Technique: Will crafts a piano solo that widely ranges in technique, however a notable reoccurring factor is the use of large chords. Such technique makes the piece sound cluttered. I can certainly appreciate the style, its just too often that I find the arrangement sounding strange or going against the overall flow. (8/10)

Musicality: As stated above, this piece just sounds too cluttered. There are moments where the progression flows in a very clear direction, however there are other moments where the progression seems to be halted by notes that sound off key. (6/10)

Personal Tilt: Will's take on "Penelo's Theme" is defiantly a piano piece out of the ordinary. There are parts I love, however there are parts I hate for ruining the flow of the piece. After a few listens, the extensive chords do become tolerable and don't sound as random. (6/10)

Blayke Waldrep's arrangement: "Penelo's Theme" -90/100-

Technique: Page 1 of this pieces flows nicely, with the main melody clear and distinct. Blayke managed to add his own personal flair, resulting in an excellent piano arrangement. The bass keeps the piece flowing in a clear direction, while the treble lay out the main melody loyal to the original. Page 2 takes a sharp turn from page 1, becoming confusing and random. True, some elements found on page 1 reappear, but the overall flow is interrupted. Its easy to loose the main melody in the treble and the quick arpeggios, familiar with the bass on page 1, are traded in for bold chords. The piece ends very suddenly, however I feel the composers objective was reached. (7/10)

Musicality: Waldrep's arrangement takes a very direct approach on musicality. The piece flows in a straight line, with just a little variety attempted towards the end. Its

alright for arrangements to be short, as long as the musical objective was reached. In my opinion, the arranger of this piece should have taken more time in clearly presenting the final product and justifying to theme changes found in page 2. **(6/10)**

Personal Tilt: I found this take on “Penelo’s Theme” to be enjoyable. I always appreciate an arranger who stays true to the original, and I can clearly pick out the main melody found in the original. However I feel that this piece should have been extended and refined before presenting; it sounds like a good rough draft to me. **(7/10)**

Josh Barron’s arrangement: “Eruyt Village” -99/100-

Technique: What Josh did here is he took the original “Eruyt Village” and created an arrangement that brought it up onto a whole to level of classical music. The progression is very subtle and new themes/instruments are introduced in a subconscious way. I find Josh’s technique flawless, however I’m not as adequately taught in classical music to make that judgment. As far as my knowledge though, this arrangement deserves the score given. **(10/10)**

Musicality: The instrumental choice here just amazingly compliments the melody and style. Josh’s interpretation of the original “Eruyt Village” can be heard quite clearly. There is not much more I can say here; or more meaningfully, there is not much at all bad I can say about this piece. **(10/10)**

Personal Tilt: I just love this arrangement. I love string quartet pieces, and Josh arranges a piece here that greatly compliments the style of a classical string quartet. This arrangement of “Eruyt Village” certainly deserves all 10’s. **(10/10)**

Pandemonium’s arrangement: “Battle for Freedom - Rebellion” - 93/100-

Technique: Pandemonium takes a very strong classical approach to this arrangement. It uses quite a long list of musical techniques and, clocking at approximately thirteen minutes, there is plenty of time for development and integration. Judging technique alone, this is another flawless piece. The style is very elaborate and complicated. **(10/10)**

Musicality: This complication of themes is very entertaining, however some sections are just too slow in development and get extremely boring. It seems Pandemonium makes his point quite clearly, yet continues to elaborate and build onto. All in all though, its very entertaining. **(9/10)**

Personal Tilt: I certainly enjoyed this arrangement, despite its long length. It sounds so much more than just an arrangement of a Final Fantasy XII tune, its sounds like an epic piano concerto. It starts a little too slow and drawn out for my tastes, but the rest certainly makes up for it. **(9/10)**

Nick Werner's arrangement: "The Zertinan Caverns" -97/100-

Technique: What an accomplishment! Listening you can clearly see how complex this arrangement is, its certainly obvious how much thought Nick put into the construction and atmosphere of this arrangement. The piano is flawless and the strings are just... amazing. The string quartet is used in such a way that adds so much to the piece. **(10/10)**

Musicality: Musically, this piece may not be as enjoyable as others to listen to with the screeching strings and complicated progression that's difficult to catch onto. However, this arrangement should defiantly be respected for what it is and represents; outstanding atmosphere and an amazing use of typical instruments. **(10/10)**

Personal Tilt: Nick defiantly did a great job, his direction and style is quite clear. Its not easy to conveying an eerie scene using MIDI, however that rarity was certainly accomplished here. **(9/10)**