



William Susman MUSIC FOR MOVING PICTURES

Grammy-nominated cellist Joan Jeanrenaud, vocalist / accordionist Mira Stroika and composer / pianist William Susman perform a blend of influences in these film scores seen on PBS Television, over 20 film festivals world-wide, museums in New York and San Francisco, and WINNER of the Tribeca Film Festival. Films during the Silent Era were called moving pictures. Live performance of the music helped

provide a “narrative” and intensify the emotion. Setting the mood for these early films, a musician, often a pianist, performed live accompanying the projection of the film. In some of the larger picture houses an organist or orchestra played a score live-to-picture or improvised to pre-determined themes.

When Medicine Got it Wrong blends historical film with contemporary imagery telling the story of parents who rocked psychiatry. ***Balancing Acts: A Jewish Theater in the Soviet Union*** relies entirely on archival footage from the first decades of the Soviet Union. ***Native New Yorker*** is a contemporary silent film shot before, during and after 9/11 with a hand-cranked 1924 Cine Kodak camera.

Although these films cover vastly different subjects, the music they feature plays a significant and vital role, helping to create and ultimately become part of the narrative.

When Medicine Got it Wrong (2009)

Joan Jeanrenaud – cello, all string parts; William Susman – piano, keyboards
How parents refused blame for causing schizophrenia
Premiered on KQED-PBS in May 2009

Balancing Acts: A Jewish Theater in the Soviet Union (2008)

Joan Jeanrenaud – cello, all string parts; Mira Stroika – accordion, vocals
William Susman – piano, keyboards
An exhilarating and ultimately tragic experiment
In 2008-2009 screened with the Chagall exhibit at the Jewish Museum New York and at the Contemporary Jewish Museum San Francisco

Native New Yorker (2005)

William Susman – piano, keyboards
A journey that transcends time
WINNER of the best documentary short at the Tribeca Film Festival, New York. Screened at over 30 film festivals around the world, on US and Canadian Public Television and at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. in a best of experimental film retrospective in the 21st Century.

