

“The best in the world at accompanying silent films.” Roger Ebert

ALLOY ORCHESTRA is a three man musical ensemble, writing and performing live accompaniment to classic silent films. Working with an outrageous assemblage of peculiar objects, they thrash and grind soulful music from unlikely sources.

Performing at prestigious film festivals and cultural centers in the US and abroad (The San Francisco Silent Film Festival, The Telluride Film Festival, The Louvre, Lincoln Center, The Academy of Motion Pictures, the National Gallery of Art and others), Alloy has helped revive some of the great masterpieces of the silent era.

An unusual combination of found percussion and state-of-the-art electronics gives the Orchestra the ability to create any sound imaginable.

Utilizing their famous “rack of junk” and electronic synthesizers, the group generates beautiful music in a spectacular variety of styles. They can conjure up a French symphony or a simple German bar band of the 20’s. The group can make the audience think it is being attacked by tigers, contacted by radio signals from Mars or swept up in the Russian Revolution.

Alloy Orchestra is (L to R):

Terry Donahue – Junk percussion, musical saw, accordion

Ken Winokur – Director, percussion, clarinet

Roger C. Miller – Keyboard

History

December 31, 1991, Boston

On a snow-swept pedestal in the middle of Boston Commons, three musicians gathered together tons of junk metal, found objects, and homemade instruments. The plan was to create some unusual music and to have some fun. Now, 24 years later, Alloy has showcased their musical magic in more than a thousand performances, visited a dozen countries, and in the process has helped revitalize the classic medium of silent film accompaniment.

The Alloy Orchestra began its notorious reign of silent film terror with an original score for Metropolis in 1991 at the Coolidge Corner Theatre (in Brookline MA). In the intervening years, the group has written scores for 30 feature length film presentations, typically premiering their new scores at the Telluride Film Festival in Colorado, the San Francisco Silent film Festival or the New York Film Festival.

Alloy collaborates with the worlds best archives and collectors (such as the George Eastman House, MGM/Warner Brothers, The British Film Institute, Paramount pictures, Film Preservation Associates, Cohen Media, BFI, Munich Filmmuseum and Box 5) to present audiences with the very best available prints of some of history’s greatest film.

Source: <http://www.alloyorchestra.com/about/bio/>