

# Education Project outline

**The Battle of the Somme – 2016 centenary tour**

With live orchestra

Score by **Laura Rossi**



[www.somme100film.com](http://www.somme100film.com)

Contact: [somme100film@gmail.com](mailto:somme100film@gmail.com)

Three creative digital education projects will be available for any school to download. Based on The Battle of the Somme film and Laura Rossi's orchestral score, the online resources will include three contrasting projects complete with a framework, outline, lesson plans, podcasts, PowerPoint presentations and links to the curriculum verified by a local authority partner.

*More details will be available on the Somme100FILM website soon and full resources will be available to download on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.*

*This information sheet serves a guide for 1 of the Somme100 FILM Education projects.*

**Period:** The main focus of the Education project will be July 2016 to July 2017 with linked final performances.

**Length of project:** 6 - 8 week period. This can vary according to the needs of each school participating.

**Age range:** The project as outlined below is aimed at ages 14 - 18 and can be used as part of the current film music module in GCSE or A level music courses. It can be adapted for other age groups if preferred.

## Summary:

- 1 Workshop for teachers on composing film music and on teaching this module to students. Run by Laura Rossi (details below).
- 2 Teachers work with students over a period of 6-8 weeks to compose scores for 3 minute clips of footage filmed at the Somme Battle (not used in the film).
- 3 Teachers to work with students, looking into and discussing war-themed music and its characteristics and playing some of the student compositions.
- 4 Laura to visit selected schools to work with students.
- 5 Student compositions to be recorded, dubbed onto the films, and screened at an event for students and parents, either within individual schools, or combined with other schools.
- 6 Optional competition element: schools to select best compositions and submit for selection. Prize-winning entries to be screened or performed live with film clips at a larger, public event. This could be presented as the first half of a live orchestral screening of ***The Battle of the Somme*** for students, or linked to a public screening of the film. It could also part of a linked event involving other WW1-themed performance/presentations (please see Cross-curricular opportunities section below).

## Cross-curricular opportunities:

The film music education project would link well with other areas of WW1 education activity, especially:

- History
- Literature
- Drama/theatre
- Art

The final presentation of the winning students' compositions would be a perfect opportunity to showcase other WW1 school activities. For example; art exhibitions and stage set designed by children, war-themed poetry written by students, short drama pieces or school choirs singing popular WW1 songs (e.g. Pack up your Troubles) to create a moving multi-media performance.

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## Workshop topics to be covered by the composer

- The process of writing music for film.
- The functions of music in film + types of film music & their uses.
- Silent Film music + the challenges and differences of composing for a silent film compared to a film with sound and dialogue and effects.
- Composing for a silent war film. The importance of knowing your subject - researching WW1 and understanding what it would be like to be a soldier in the war (children doing their own research into any family connections with WW1 + younger soldiers in the war (many of whom were of similar age to the students)/ visiting exhibitions/ films, books + poetry).
- Analysing the music that would have been originally performed with this film and discussing its limitations.
- How different music can change the meaning of a scene and your perception of the images.
- Why the music used in 1916 is perceived differently by a contemporary film audience.
- What to consider when scoring the WW1 film excerpts + the importance of staying true to the images.
- Scoring to picture (using software and computers to sync music to picture).
- How to construct a film score: themes/ structure/ building the drama/ underlining emotion/ help realise the meaning of the film / drawing you into a scene etc.
- From score to screen: Recording and mixing your music and dubbing it onto the film.

## Education Experience

Composer Laura Rossi is the course tutor for Music in Film at the London Film Academy. She has given masterclasses at venues including The Imperial War Museum, Metropolitan Film School, Central Film School and festivals including Edinburgh, Madeira and Pordenone Film Festival, Italy. In 2014 she devised, taught and assessed a film music degree module at Exeter College. She has also appeared on radio and television, including Radio 2 and BBC breakfast, talking about her music:

Further information <http://www.laurarossi.com/biography/film-music-masterclasses/>