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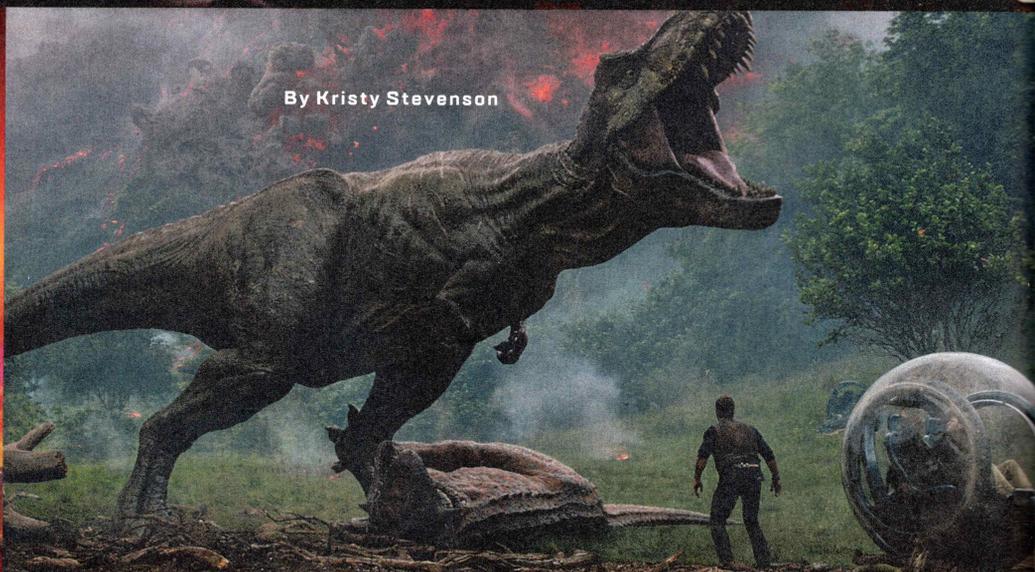
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Michael Giacchino conducting at the Royal Albert Hall in London, England.

MUSIC MAKER

THIS OSCAR WINNER HAS WORKED ON LOTS OF BLOCKBUSTERS.



The *Incredibles*, *Cars 2*, *Coco*, *Incredibles 2*, *Inside Out*, *Ratatouille*, *Jurassic World*, *Zootopia* — these are some of the blockbuster movies for which composer Michael Giacchino has written music. He's also worked on a number

of Marvel soundtracks. And then there's the score that won him an Oscar, a Golden Globe, a BAFTA, a Critics' Choice Award and two Grammy Awards: Pixar's *Up*.

Fuel for the Imagination

Since the age of 9, Giacchino was interested in moviemaking — everything from special effects to model making to animation. But he was also captivated by music and what it does for films.

"Music sort of snuck up on me and took over," says Giacchino, who played piano and guitar as a child.

The original 1933 *King Kong* was one of his favorite movies. It was scored by Max Steiner, who was the first to use music themes against characters whenever they're on screen. For example, when Kong appears, there's this *bom, bom, bom* — the same three notes every time.

"Growing up, I paid attention to film scores. I listened to *Superman*, *Star Wars*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* — all John Williams — and then also anything by Jerry Goldsmith, like *Star Trek*, listening to how the music works with the dialogue and the sound effects. Enjoying movies and playing with their toys fueled my imagination."

Giacchino still has his childhood toys from the movies *Planet of the Apes*, *Batman*, *Star Wars*, *Star Trek* and *Spider-Man* — and he's worked on all of those franchises.

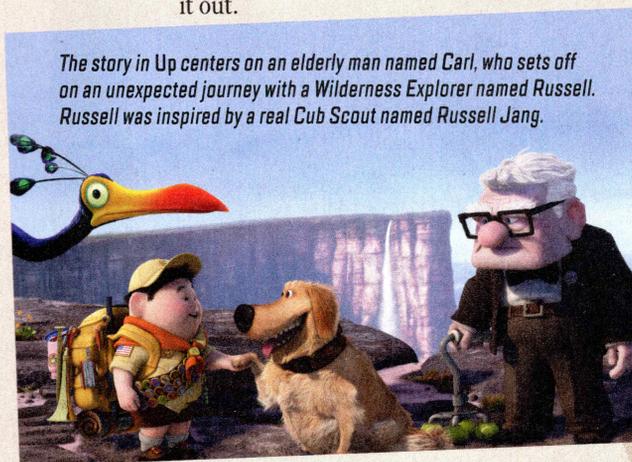
Getting His Start

While producing videogames for Disney Interactive, Giacchino began studying music composition. Disney asked him to compose a piece for one of their games. It was a hit, and he was asked to do more. At his next job at DreamWorks, his arrangements were put in front of filmmaker Steven Spielberg.

From then on, all Giacchino did was create music.

His first movie soundtrack was for *The Incredibles*. With its success, he became a sought-after composer.

Giacchino is also known for his score to TV's *Lost*. He'd never worked in television before, but he wasn't afraid to take a chance. His philosophy is always to say yes no matter what — and then figure it out.



The story in *Up* centers on an elderly man named Carl, who sets off on an unexpected journey with a Wilderness Explorer named Russell. Russell was inspired by a real Cub Scout named Russell Jang.

"Mistakes are OK to make," he says, "because you're not going to learn unless you make mistakes. They're how you get to know yourself better."

Giacchino is also known for his scores to videogames *Mickey Mania*, *The Incredibles: Rise of the Underminer* and *The Lion King*, as well as theme-park soundtracks for *Space Mountain* and *Star Tours: The Adventures Continues*.

Signature Style

Giacchino's signature style includes catchy melodies, complex harmonies, and the use of unusual instruments or sounds. One such instrument is the metallic *angklung* — a traditional Indonesian musical instrument — he built from pieces of the fictional Oceanic Flight 815 set wreckage in *Lost*.

Giacchino has been described by sound editors as someone who tries to create music that matches the personality of each character he's composing for.

Understanding emotions is important in getting music just right for a scene, so he embraces the joy or sadness of the moment.

"I want the audience to be there with the characters in every way, so I put myself in their shoes as much as I can. How would I feel in that situation?" he says. "And that's where that music comes (from). So being a composer is a little like being an actor and taking on a character yourself."

A Little Advice

Interested in writing music? Giacchino suggests starting now.

"Know that ideas grow into better ideas. Eventually, you'll recognize if it's a career you want to chase. If it's still something you feel obsessed with, start looking at schools that offer music and composition."

He recommends studying other subjects of interest to help feed your creative soul and make you a more well-rounded artist.

"If they're things that feed you in a way that gives you happiness, even if you don't land exactly where you think you're going, you'll land somewhere nearby." ✦

JOB FACTS:

Music Composer

WHAT TO EXPECT: Music composers arrange original scores for film, television, radio, advertising, videogames and more to help set the right tone or mood. When writing soundtracks, they follow the script and project specifications to tell a story through their music, working with directors and producers to add emotional depth.

JOB OUTLOOK: According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of music directors and composers is expected to hold steady through 2034, with about 4,300 openings projected each year.

EDUCATION/TRAINING: The most important qualifications are excellent musical ability, creativity, and a deep and broad knowledge of music theory. Many composers attend a music school or conservatory to earn a bachelor's or master's degree.

CHECK HIM OUT: With your parent or guardian's permission, learn more at go.scoutlife.org/michaelgiacchino