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[Review by Clark Douglas for \*Movie Music UK . com\*](#)

**Review: the motion picture score for PJ:**

Almost any film music reviewer will attest to the fact that you find more duds than gems when dealing with scores from little-known composers, and I didn't expect much from this score. **I am pleased to reported that Mr. Argo's score for "PJ" is a hidden gem, one that I sincerely hope is made available to the public at some point.**

This intimate orchestral score was a very pleasant surprise, reminding me a little bit of the low-key work of Elmer Bernstein. **The opening "P. J. Main Title" is a gorgeous (though brief) piece of music that hooked me immediately.**

**Performed by a string ensemble, woodwinds, and piano, it's a heartbreakingly old-fashioned and lush composition that will surely appeal to fans of composers like Bernstein and Delerue. The theme shows up every now and then, but not enough to wear out it's welcome by any means.**

Throughout much of the score, the music remains very low-key, relying a minimal amount of players. **Early cues such as "Big Seizure!" offer one of the primary thematic ideas heard in the score, some ominously serene string writing that may remind some listeners of the calmer passages in Jerry Goldsmith's "Alien". As we move along, the acoustic guitar begins to play an increasing large role, sometimes taking on reflective solo cues ("Mental Institutions") and occasionally collaborating with the strings ("A Latin Quarrel"). One of my favorite guitar pieces is the gentle "Goodbye", which effectively demonstrates just how effective quiet simplicity can be at times.**

The string writing starts to dominate again as we head into the final third of the album. **The finest portion of the album probably begins with "Show Me New York", which kicks off a series of very fine cues such as "Save Me", "It's a Miracle", "Claire Remembered", "Get Together", and "Montage Wrap". In all of these cues, Argo carefully avoids letting the music become too explicitly emotional. They are moving and thoughtful pieces, but he usually holds back just a little bit, waiting until precisely the right moments to unleash pure melodic bliss. The big payoff comes at the end, with the brief "Conclusion" and the sublime "End Title", which gives us a gentle jazz arrangement of that wonderful main theme.**

If the score is ever made available to the public, I hope that it will be re-arranged into a slightly tighter listening experience. That being said, this is an excellent effort. It's precisely the sort of timeless film scoring that we hear so precious little of these days, and that deserves recognition. If you ever get the chance to pick up a copy, by all means do so. I hope we hear more from Mr. Argo in the future."

**Rating: \*\*\*\* (out of five)**

## Track Listing

1. P.J. Main Title – 1:31
2. New York Skyline – 0:31
3. Dr. Shearson to “PJ Main Title” - 1:12
4. Stuck by the Door – 1:09
5. Claire – 0:26
6. The Accident Dream – 0:40
7. Hip-ness – 0:16
8. Help Yourself – 1:10
9. Hip-you – 0:10
10. Hip-us – 0:15
11. Big Seizure! - 1:22
12. Mental Institutions – 0:58
13. Love Me Too Much – 0:54
14. Both of Us – 1:02
15. A Latin Quarrel – 1:23
16. Make Love to Me – 0:57
17. Feels Like? - 0:42
18. Don't Leave – 0:47
19. Let's Fix Him – 0:32
20. Goodbye – 2:33
21. Tormented – 1:11
22. How Did He Know – 2:57
23. 24 Hours in a Day – 3:05
24. Show Me New York – 2:30
25. Save Me – 2:12
26. Upstairs – 1:48
27. It's a Miracle – 2:25
28. Hip-oh – 0:18
29. Ah, New York – 0:36
30. Claire Remembered – 3:03
31. Claire Briefly – 0:28
32. Get Together – 2:25
33. Happiness – 1:12
34. Montage Wrap – 1:26
35. Conclusion – 1:00
36. P.J. End Title – 4:53