

Music City Mystique 2017 - Front Ensemble Design, Orchestration, and Technology

presented by Matt Jordan

Challenges of New Pit Setup

- But... it's different! (that's the fun part!)
- As part of design process, we wanted to shake things up.
- Cleaning process is different.
- Teaching process is different.
- Listening responsibilities are all different.
- The things that were easy (battery phrases with half note impacts) are now impossible. Things that were hard are now at least a bit easier.
- Rack players would have been hung out to dry—that's what started the in-ear conversation.

Instrumentation

What instruments do you have available that help accentuate the conceptual color palate of the show?

- MCM 2017 was the setup of marimbas integrated with bongos/toms. Inspired by two pieces - Gene Koshinski's As One (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99N5ceqyirY>), and Michael Laurello's SPINE (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KC_UFT9PkYk).

Technology Integration during Rehearsals

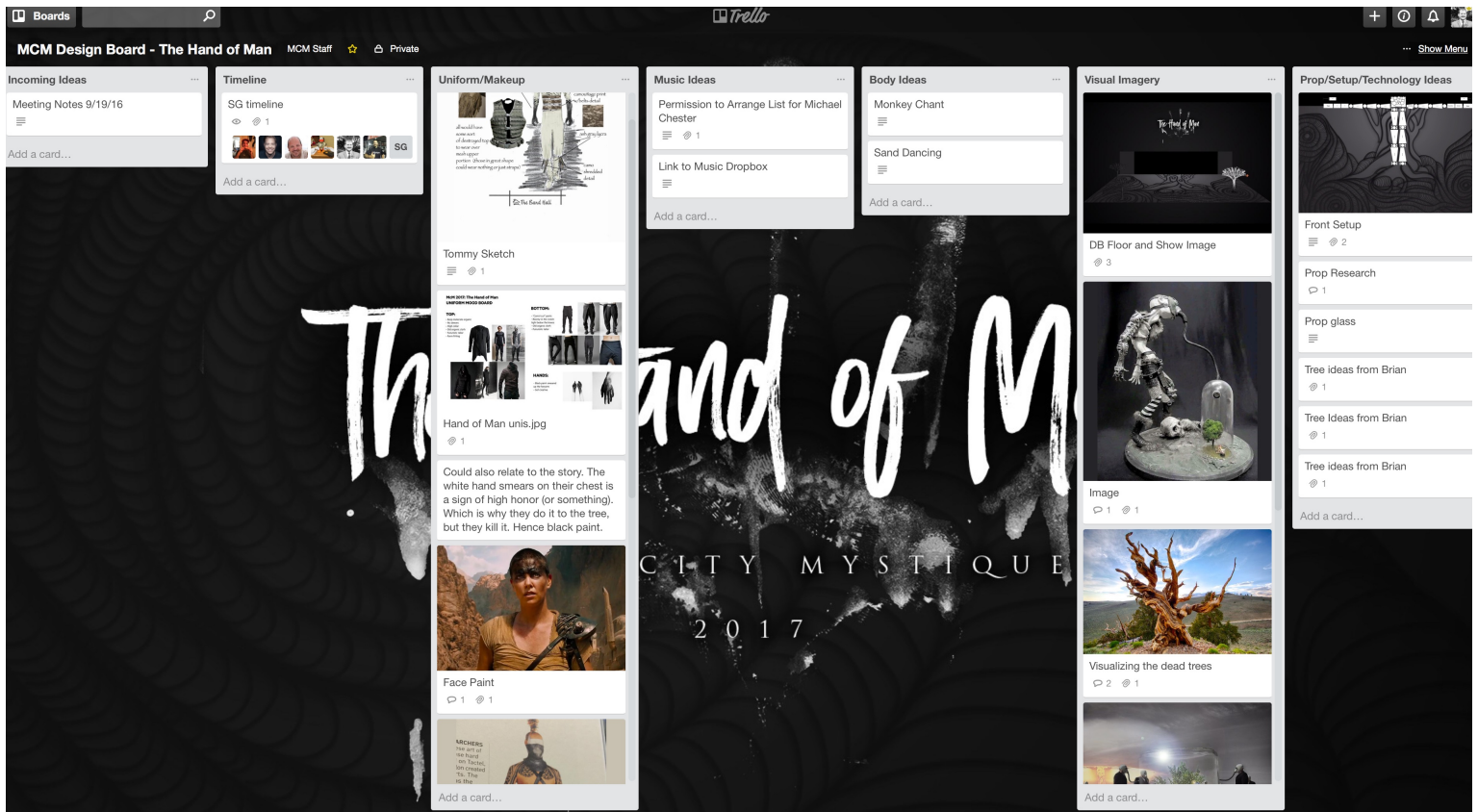
- System of Samples (numbered by movement and put in score. not based on measure numbers). All staff members can refer to exact sample number for edits. All suffixes denote edits (Sample 57a would be a revision).
- Editing samples, synths, etc. from the stands using screen sharing during run throughs and rehearsals. Saves time yelling instructions at 1 player!
- Mixing with iPad in stands and at shows.

New Organizational Tools - Trello

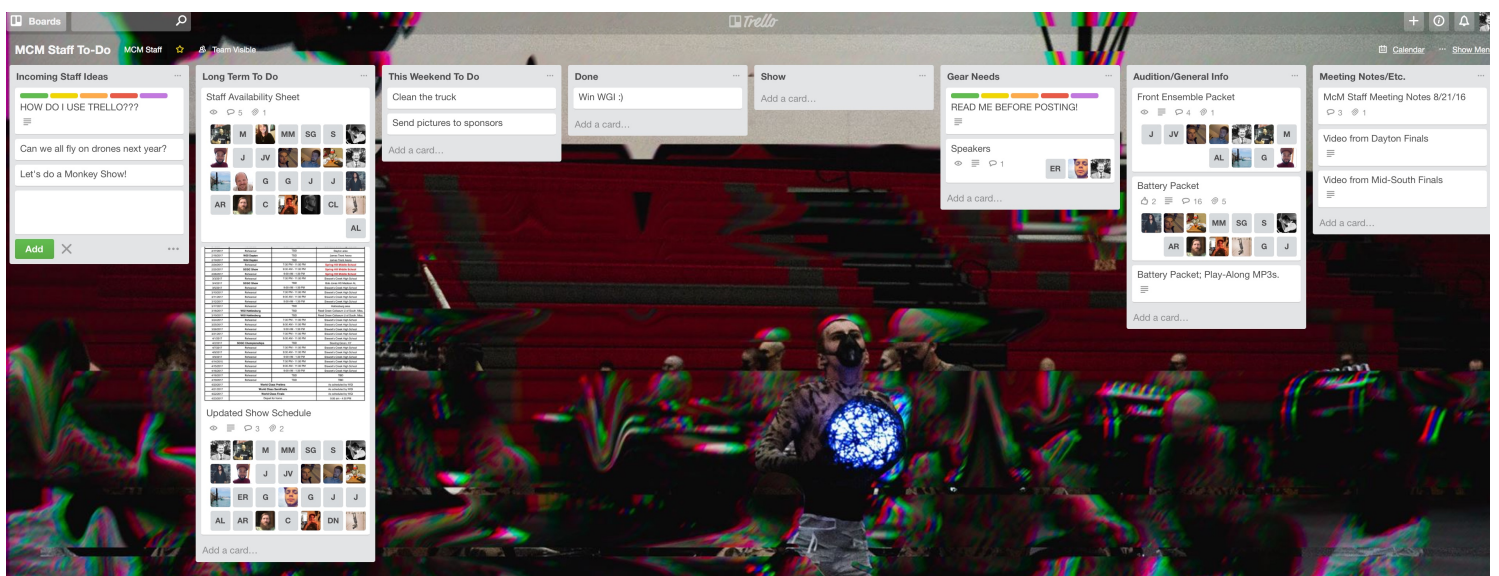
- Needed a new way to keep staff in the loop about all sorts of things.
 - Allowed easier/smooth communication between staff members and design team.
 - Also allowed to better plan rehearsals and rehearsal techniques.
- No surprises!

- Used for both design team and instructional staff. Instructional staff use was the most beneficial.
- See pictures on next page...

MCM DESIGN TRELLO BOARD



MCM STAFF TRELLO BOARD



Music City Mystique's Technology Setup

We used 2 audio computers at MCM this year. One deals with both synths, and one is our sampler. The synth computer was running through an interface that allowed for 4 outputs through a bus powered interface, allowing them to be mixed as discrete channels on the mixer (especially important for iPad control in the stands!)

Synth Computer (2 players)-

MacBook Pro (mid 2012) w/8 gigs RAM and 256 SSD
Mainstage Software, running Omnisphere as a plug-in
MOTU Ultralite MK3 Hybrid interface (8 1/4" outputs, bus powered)
Synth 1 running out of channels 1 and 2
Synth 2 running out of channels 3 and 4
All is running off 1 instance of Mainstage.
Akai MPK88 Controller (bus powered)
Akai Advance 61 (bus powered)

Sampler Computer (one player)-

MacBook Pro Retina 13"
Mainstage Software
Ran Dante Into the Mixer (so unlimited channel options!)
Running off of 1 instance of Mainstage
Novation 25 Key Keyboard with trigger pads

Lighting-

MacBook Pro Retina w/16 gigs RAM and 256 SSD
Light-O-Rama Software
DMX USB Pro Interface
Wireless DMX Dongle
Custom Made Trigger Box

As we get closer to finals, I set up a new user on my own personal computer that has the files/drivers/configurations for all 3 computers on it... so if anything acts up, we have a backup computer loaded and ready to go. Redundancy is important! We have backup plans for if any single piece of gear goes down, up to the point we're on the court.

The biggest benefit to the above setup is that EVERYTHING is bus powered, so we can check everything behind the curtain and make sure it's working. Nothing like being in front of the audience and then having to troubleshoot technology (we've all been there...).

Sound Reinforcement System-

Roland M5000C Digital Mixing Console

Roland Digital Snakes

4 Presonus ULT15 15" Powered Speakers (2 front, 2 rear)

3 Presonus ULT18 18" Powered Subwoofers (2 front, 1 under drum set cart)

1 Presonus 328AI 3x8" Powered Speaker (Center Channel)

All keyboards use Audio Technica AT2035 Large Diaphragm Condenser Mics,
Drumset uses Rode M5 overheads, Shure SM57 on snares, and Audix D2 tom
mics.

2 Behringer X16 Mixers (Marimba Sub Mixers)

4 QLXD Wireless Microphone Systems (coming from Behringer X16s)

2 PSM300 Wireless In-Ear Systems (for center marimbas of each pod)

8 Behringer PM1 Wired In-Ear Packs (for Racks, Electronics, and Drumset)

Hope this has been helpful. Let me know if there are any questions!

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Matt would like to thank the following companies for their wonderful support-

