OBSESSIONS (1969) music rundown

Music by Bernard Herrmann (CBS Music Library)
[final pdf version May 25, 2017]
**********************************

Postscript May 24, 2017: I received my dvd combo package in today's mail. Dvd timings below will be accurate based on my computer (Windows Media Player) and Sony player for the tv]

To recognize the May 23, 2017 Cult Epics release of the Blu-ray dvd of Obsessions (1969), I decided to compile the following complete sequential rundown of Herrmann's tracked-in music for the movie. It is indeed "Music by Bernard Herrmann" but not a specifically written "Score by Bernard Herrmann" (original score) for this movie. Since the producers only had a $20,000 budget for music (insufficient for a Herrmann made-to-order new score), Herrmann suggested that they license his music from the CBS Music Library. The music used there appears to be from the TransWorld Recorded Library compilation of CBS cues (see image immediately below this paragraph). At any rate, all of the cues used in Obsessions are in the TransWorld collection. The only one I could not specifically find named in that list is "Hagar's Rage" from Collector's Item. It is possible the item was actually in the compilation but not identified, or
identified incorrectly. Perhaps that second *Brave New World* was actually *Collector's Item* (or simply Part I & Part II of the former.

### Collection Guide

**Collection Title:** Guide to the Bernard Herrmann Papers, 1927-1977

**Collection Number:** PA Mss 3

**Get Items:**
- Online items available
- Request items
- Contact UC Santa Barbara: Special Collections

### Series IV: Sound Recordings

**Subseries D: Concert Music**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1654/D12</td>
<td>The Chase, Indian Gathering, The Hunt, Indian Fight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1655/D12</td>
<td>Sun Clouds, Sun Clouds (Faster), Dramatic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1666/D12</td>
<td>Dramatic II, Dramatic (Faster), Rain Clouds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1667/D12</td>
<td>Space Drift, Space Drift (Factor), Signals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1668/D12</td>
<td>Starlight, Starlight (Faster), Space Stations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1669/D12</td>
<td>Moonscape, Moonscape (Faster), The Airlock, The Airlock (Faster)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1670/D12</td>
<td>Tycho, Tycho, Tycho (Faster), Danger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1671/D12</td>
<td>Brave New World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1672/D12</td>
<td>Brave New World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1673/D12</td>
<td>Suspense Processional: 5, 2, 2A, 3, 3 (Faster)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1674/D12</td>
<td>Suspense Processional: 4, 4 (Opening), 4A; Emotional Suspense 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1675/D12</td>
<td>Emotional Suspense: 1, 2; Emotional: 3, 1; Emotional con Moto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1676/D12</td>
<td>Emotional 2, Agitato Bridge 1 &amp; 2, Agitato Suspense, Poco Agitato, Sneak to Tag, Descending Pyramid, Descending Pyramid (Faster), Accent, Religious Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1677/D12</td>
<td>The World Today (by Willis Schaefer) Landmark Opening, Landmark Finale (Herrmann)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Look to the final five "item" rows before the bottom row, starting with Item A1673/D12. You will see Suspense Processional 4 (incorrectly spelled "Suspence"), Emotional Suspense, Agitato Bridge, Emotional, Descending Pyramid, and so on. These are cues and/or sections of cues from Herrmann's Walt Whitman suite of cues from the June 20, 1944 radio show, Columbia Presents Corwin. Walt Whitman was the third part of the so-called American Trilogy series for Corwin. American Trilogy I was "Sandburg" (June 6, 1944) while American Trilogy II was "Thomas Wolfe" (June 13, 1944). Walt Whitman was later rerecorded for CBS Television in London sometime in August 1957. The designation is CBS 8-34-D1. The CBS cue # is a generalized #298. Cue 1 of the series would be #298-1, then #298-2 for cue II, and so on.

Only a few of the Brave New World (a CBS radio score dated January 27, 1956) cues were used in Obsessions, such as cue III sixteen minutes into the movie. I did hear Herrmann's "Landmark" music being used in the picture. This is just as well since the martial "Landmark" music would not really fit in the movie. Unfortunately, in my opinion, some of the music that was used in the movie did not really fit either. Specifically the "Indian Fight" music from the so-called Indian Suite of cues (composed mid 1957) used for the Opening Titles is unwise. The music editing gets appreciably better after the Opening Titles but the jarring mixture of sounds there (mixing cues with overlaps with some of the music actually simultaneously combined) sounds rather chaotic to me! : ).....Moreover, there are I believe voodoo percussion drum beats sounding simultaneously (meant visually or diegetic later in the movie for the portable cassette player source of the music) then and in various other sections of the movie that definitely are not by Herrmann. Except for these drum effects, everything else heard in the movie is Herrmann's music.

There is one tiny fragment of a Herrmann cue towards the end of the movie when the Bad Man gets arrested that I could not identify--the only tracked-in selection that I could not identify with certainty.

As far as frequency is concerned, Herrmann's so-called Western Suite of cues ("Rain Clouds," "The Ambush," "Dramatic II (Gunfight" etc.) were used the most in the movie (approximately 36% of the time). Next the so-called Outer Space Suite ("Danger," "Signals," "Airlock," etc.) were used about 30% of the time. Then the Walt Whitman series of cues were used
about 20% of the time. The *Indian Suite* cues were only used a few times; same for *Brave New World and Collector's Item* ("Hagar's Rage").

Now: I created two YouTube educational videos of this music. One is a short version of about twelve & a half minutes that shows each respective scene for its corresponding music synch with the Cult Epics dvd timing. Note that both the standard & the Blu-ray dvds have the same timings. For example, music track #1 occurs 21 seconds into the movie thru 54 seconds into the movie. The music identified here is the *Walt Whitman* cue IX "Emotional # 3, Section C." The start scene is the "Scorpio Films" logo. This short-version video version #1 is visual only (no audio presentation of the music). Here is the link:

https://youtu.be/acu6ix6JMJk

Video version #2 is almost twice as long, about 21 & a half minutes in length. It has the same educational information of the music used in video version #1 but it also now presents the audio. There are, however, no visual examples of the written music. Here, however, in this paper, I'll remedy that by showing my own hand-copies of the cues based on my long research. Nico of Cult Epics will provide the long version of the video on his YouTube site when his Blu-ray is released (North American rights belong to him) and provide links at various sites. I do not want to place it on my own YouTube site since it will state "Copyright Content" that I do not want. At this writing (9 am May 25) video version # 2 (with audio) has not yet been uploaded on the "Cult Epics" YouTube site, so I cannot provide a link. You will need to search that yourself (but I will provide a link on my own video version #1 (no audio) once I receive it).

The length of *Obsessions* is 1:30:49 (1:30:54 on the Blu-ray).

************************

**OBSESSIONS** cue rundown [Note: These are the Cult Epics' standard and Blu-ray dvd timings I post scripted into this research paper on Wednesday, May 24, 2017. Both dvd versions have the same timings on my computer & Sony dvd player for the television. My VLC Media Player on the computer has different timings.....]

Note: the Opening Titles are music tracks #1, 2 & 3.
-OBSESSIONS Music track #1 (Cult Epics standard & Blu-ray dvds 00:21 - 00:54) Walt Whitman cue IX "Emotional #3" Section C [Scene: Scorpio Films]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #2 (dvd 00:38 - 00:54) "Dramatic II (Gunfight)" [Western Suite] Bars 7-14 [Scene: hole-in-wall image]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #3 (dvd 00:55 - 2:22) "Indian Fight" [Indian Suite] Bars 1-59, 82-87 [Scene: "Dieter Geissler"]
-OBSESSIONS Music track #4 (dvd 5:05 - 05:38) "Rain Clouds" [Western Suite] cue X, CBS cue #462, Bars 1-8 [Scene: Nils in a white cowboy hat walks to window]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #5 (dvd start 6:37) Unknown percussion beats track [Scene: Nils spying thru hole in wall on woman & man next apartment]
-OBSESSIONS Music track #6 (dvd 7:05 - 8:16) "Rain Clouds" Bars 24-42 [Scene: Nils walks to door]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #7 (dvd 8:20 - 9:08) "Space Drift" [Outer Space Suite] cue IV, CBS #1010, Bars 1-12, 17-18 [Scene: Nils in shop]
-OBSESSIONS Music track #9 (dvd 12:14 - 12:25) Walt Whitman, cue IX "Emotional #3" Bar 28, end Bars 36-37 [Scene: red-dressed woman walks up stairs]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #10 (dvd 12:53-14:52) "The Ambush (The Trap)" [Western Suite] cue III, CBS #455, Bars 2-9, 19-33, 40-42 [Scene: white-coated woman walks across canal bridge]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #11 (dvd 16:29 - 16:56) Brave New World, cue 3, Bars 1-6 etc. [Scene: darkened room]
-OBSESSIONS Music track #12 (dvd 17:06 - 17:13) Brave New World cue fragment [Scene: Nils removes bandage from tied woman in bathroom]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #13 (dvd 20:29 - 21:34) "The Ambush (The Trap)" [Western Suite] Bars 1-9, etc [Scene: bald-headed man standing on canal bridge]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #14(a) (dvd 24:01 thru 25:22) Walt Whitman cue VIII [Scene: Marina talks with black gentleman]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #14 (b) (dvd 27:26 - 29:29) "The Ambush (The Trap)" [Western Suite] Bars 2-24, 21-24, etc [Scene: Nils on scooter]
- OBSESSIONS Music track #15 (dvd 30:39-32:12) unknown percussion beats track (tape recorder) [Scene: fully-dressed Nils in shower with naked woman]

- OBSESSIONS Music track #16 (dvd 32:49-33:56) "Tycho" [Outer Space Suite] cue XI, CBS #1017, Bars 6-31 [Scene: girlfriend in white night gown in room]
-OBSESSIONS Music track #17 (dvd 34:01 - 34:33) "Tycho" [Outer Space Suite] cue XI, CBS #1017, Bars 24-31 etc [girlfriend peeps thru hole in wall]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #18 (dvd 35:45 - 35:58) Walt Whitman cue IX "Emotional #3" Section C, Bars 36-37 etc [Scene: Nils discovers peep hole is plastered over]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #19 (dvd 36:49 - 36:57) "Dramatic II (Gunfight)" [Western Suite] Bars 1-2 [Scene: Nils in shop]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #21 (dvd start 43:57 ) unknown percussion beats track (overlap to next track) [Scene: same woman in full slip on chair seduces Nils]


-OBSESSIONS Music track #23 (dvd 47:33 - 48:27) Walt Whitman cue IX "Emotional #3" Sect C (with overlapping percussion beats) [Scene: white birds flying over canal]
-OBSESSIONS Music track #24 (dvd 48:57 - 49:15) "Tycho" [Outer Space Suite] [Scene: Nils with comb grooming his hair]


-OBSESSIONS Music track #26 (dvd 53:02 - 54:30) "Moonscape" [Outer Space Suite] Bars 1-19, 24-26 [Scene: Nils jumps into the water]
-OBSESSIONS Music track #27 (dvd 59:51 - 1:00:36) "Danger" [Outer Space Suite] cue VIII, CBS #1014, Bars 1-8, 28-45 [Scene: Bad guy opens door]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #28 (dvd 1:01:08 - 1:00:15) "Danger" [Outer Space Suite] cue VIII, CBS #1014, Bars 1-8 [Scene: Nils in hiding gets up from under the neighbor's bed]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #29 (dvd 1:01:20 - 1:01:40) "Danger" [Outer Space Suite] cue VIII, CBS #1014, Bars 36-40, 43-47 [Scene: Bad man inspects his blaring car]
-OBSESSIONS Music track #30 (dvd 1:02:24 - 1:02:39) "Dramatic II"
[Western Suite] Bars 1-4 [Scene: bald-headed man spying from within car]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #31 (dvd 1:02:42 - 1:03:11) "Rain Clouds"
[Western Suite] Bars 1-8 [Scene: suspect's car on channel bridge]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #32 (dvd 1:03:12 - 1:03:26 "Dramatic II"
[Western Suite] Bars 7-12 [Scene: bald-headed man inspects mailboxes]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #34 (dvd 1:04:54 - 1:05:11) "Rain Clouds" [Western Suite] Bars 1-5 with overlapping percussion beats track [Scene: Nils telephones]
-OBSESSIONS Music track #35 (dvd 1:05:37 - 1:06:30) "Echo IV (The Chase)" [Indian Suite] CBS cue #222, Bars 5-36 [Scene: woman hurries outside]

![Musical notation]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #36 (dvd 1:08:28 - 1:08:52) Walt Whitman cue X "Indian Gathering" Bars 1-12 [Scene: Nils on scooter watching woman]
-OBSESSIONS Music track #37 (dvd 1:09:08 - 1:09:48) Walt Whitman cue X "Indian Gathering" Bars 1-21 [Scene: Nils follows her at night]


-OBSESSIONS Music track #42 (dvd 1:21:04 - 1:21:27) Collector's Item, CBS cue #1294, "Hagar's Rage" [Scene: Bad man in his apartment]

[NOTE: I never found the written cue in the CBS Collection....]
-OBSESSIONS Music track #43 (dvd 1:22:00 - 1:22:42) "Tycho" [Outer Space Suite] Bars 1-10 [Scene: outside talk by car]


-OBSESSIONS Music track #47 (dvd 1:25:35 -1:25:46) "Rain Clouds" [Western Suite] [Scene: Bad man gets his gun]


-OBSESSIONS Music track #50 (dvd 1:28:52 -1:29:00) unidentified cue [Scene: Bad man arrested outside]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #51 (dvd start1:29:06) Walt Whitman cue I "Emotional Suspense #1" Bars 1-4 played 4X [Scene: Nils Janssen's grave]
-OBSESSIONS Music track #52 (dvd start1:30:30) Walt Whitman cue I
"Emotional Suspense #1" Bar 5 [Scene: Marina leaves cemetery]

Finale

*****************************************************

-music identifications compiled by Bill Wrobel [Film Score Rundowns]
-first Word doc version Saturday, April 8, 2017 at 9:33 pm PDT
-Updated Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 10:20 am PDT
(c) Copyright 2017 Bill Wrobel

*****************************************************