

MELODIUS AND THE SOULFORGE

TO DO:

consider musical visuals as plot devices?

act 1 draft timeline:

act 1 songs are medieval sounding, where possible.

0. melodius's intro, gets picked on by bullies on way home

Title screen.

the soulforge is introduced at the beginning as allowing the AC to have power over the earth, but to work he has to sacrifice a pure soul using it, so he devises the harp as a way to capture a pure soul from the church.

Black intro with red words, evil music. slowly fade in a picture of the harp covered up in hell.

"Since the beginning of time, evil has been trapped within the confines of Hell. After generations of confinement, a plan was devised to break this great evil back onto the surface world through the use of a SOULFORGE. Now all that is needed is to capture a pure soul to sacrifice..."

subtitle with year 1412

fade in with rain, more music at church. Fade the background around the harp but leave the covered harp where it is in the frame. A play would spotlight the harp first, then dim the spot and bring up the stage lights for the background scenery.

Show a hole in the earth quietly opened as black vines come out and pull on the door knocker for the church, then the vines disappear back into the ground which closes almost silently. The black vines are shown to be composed of tiny stick figures (from the soulforge, which is a giant scary-looking dragon thingy made up of these figures, although each is not delineated).

A church elder emerges from the church and peers out at the harp, then solicits others in the church to come out and help him get the harp, we don't have to hear the dialog to understand the scene.

They lift/drag the harp inside, cut to the inside of the church as they try to dry off.

"What is it?" the one asks, as another pulls the cover off to reveal the stunning bejeweled harp. They all gasp.

Elder 1: "Heaven be praised, it must be worth a fortune!",

Elder 2 goes to pull off a stone and notices the inscription.

Elder 2: "Wait! Look at the inscription: 'whosoever has the greatest songs, it is to he this harp belongs. When the greatest song is played, immortal is the player made.' It must be a prize from the King!"

Elder 3: "They say he is fond of music. I know a hundred songs, but which is the greatest?"

Elder 1: "We have a talented choir too, but are any of them the best you ever heard?"

Elder 2: "For all we know, the best musician in town could be anyone. We'll have to let the Lord bring the best song out from his people in his own house."

Elder 1: "I wonder who it will be. Just look at this harp -- whoever it is, their life will never be the same!"

Bring up the Melodius intro theme

flyover of field

see horse-carriage and period-accurate wheat threshing operation

zoom in to a single character, Melodius

Melodius is working in the field, doing some sort of repetitive work like scything wheat, and to the rhythm of the scythe he is creating music which we hear as the overture to the intro scene here. Despite the difficulty of the work, melodius trudges on, his hands blistered and numerous work-related injuries apparent. Distant churchbells ring, signaling the end of the traditional work day (probably around 6pm our time).

Melodius begins the trek home, singing or whistling an incredibly complicated song.

As the camera follows Melodius, a separate track develops where we see footsteps of thieves stalking Melodius.

STORYLINE C: melodius kills some thieves in an armed fight, inadvertently saving the princess en route to town

melodius hears the thieves coming upon a caravan. The princess's armored entourage has become divided through some navigational misfortune and a timing error, and she's there with a few unarmed attendants. one throws a knife and just misses his head (knife sticks in tree) while one behind him draws a sword. "Hand over the money, kid." One says. They start harassing caravan members including the princess, who falls in the mud before Melodius gets to see her – but she gets a good look at him during the fight. Camera sees them pulling their swords and advancing on Melodius. Everything slows way down and the music gets really quiet, and in its place we hear a high-pitched whine and melodius' heartbeat. Melodius looks and sees a pendant around the guy's neck that belonged to his mother. He hears the sword-drawing noise and swings around with his scythe screaming, impaling the bully in a grotesque manner. He steps on the scythe to pull it out of the guy's body as the others flee. The first guy falls over dead as melodius chases down and kills the other thieves. Melodius drags their bodies off of the road into the bushes. As the whining noise fades back out for music again, M wipes off the blade with his sleeve and is shown sharpening it on the way home with a stone. M takes his mother's pendant from the thief, and we see some sort of flashback of his mother wearing the pendant or it being stolen by the thief (we dont actually see her die). The Princess entourage catches up as Melodius is leaving, and she advises them that he wasn't an attacker but instead was her "savior".

1. returns home, discussion with father about bullies + talents

Melodius' father is in the background, reading an eviction notice he just received. We see a shot of the notice.

at home covered in blood and dirt, and additionally disheveled.

m: god be here (standard entry to home statement in middle ages)

Melodius arrives home to see the tax collector and his father standing at the door.

F: Melodius, what the hell happened to you?

M: Thieves.

F: Did you take care of it? Do you still have the money?

M: Yeah, I did pretty well on the wheat today --

F: "We need that money for the tax collector."

M: what, all of it?"

Tax collector, taking and counting it: "You're still short, I'll have to come back tomorrow."

F: "Fine, fine, just get out of here."

M: "Fine (SIGH) We cannot get ahead!"

F: "I know son, it's just until your mother gets back."

M: "How long have you been saying that... what if she isn't coming back?"

F smacks him: "Don't.. you ..ever ..say that! She is coming back! " M "When dad, when?" He hands the pendant over to his dad. F, silence... M: "I can't take this right now." F: "Where do you think you're going?" M: "I need some air". F "You better be back by dark", M: "Or what? maybe I'll just come back when mom comes back!" M runs off, F after him "She's coming back, you hear me, boy!"

M choking back tears, walks through town and that's when he sees the harp at the church.

M, sees the harp in the door, "Holy.. shit!"

Elder, "Excuse me???"

M: "oops, I mean .. sorry father I, uh oh..."

E rails on: "the mouth on you! You did NOT come down here just to swear on holy ground!" grabs melodius by the ear.

M: OW OW OW, Sorry father... it's just.. where did that harp come from?

E: "It was a generous donation from the king... and it could be yours, son, can you play music?"

M: Are you kidding?

E: "Absolutely not. We're giving it away to whoever can come up with the best song. Think of it son, you, your family, none of them would ever have to work another day in your life."

M: "Holy...OW, what?! I wasn't going to say it!"

E: "Just get out of here with that mouth and go write the best song you can! ...Good luck Melodius!"

They're just then putting up a notice about the contest to win the harp. Since M can't read, he has to ask them what it says and the elders tell him about the specifics of the contest?

2. The next day, the contest is officially announced during a guest appearance by the Princess at the church.

Melodius sees the princess as a guest singer in the choir, now she knows who saved her, etc. The harp contest is announced. After her performance, she talks to melodius.

Church elder: Thanks to our special guest performer, Princess Nicole. Good luck to everyone in the harp contest.

(people mingle after choir performance at church)

p: wait!

m: turns around

p: you're the boy that saved me!

m: uh, ... I mean, yeah, yes i am, your highness.

p: you're still hurt!

m: nah, i'm fine. thanks. (grimaces a bit)

p: are you sure you don't need help?

m: I'll be fine, I'm just glad you are ok. Your singing was incredible today.

p: oh.. thank you...

m: you're welcome (starts to turn as p gets distracted by hangers-on)

p, shooing away hangers on: wait! what you did was the most selfless act I've ever seen. isn't there anything I can do to repay your chivalry?

m: can I have your favor in the harp contest?

p: (leans in away from hangers on) "that depends...you saved my life, but can you win my heart?"
(gives m the look)

4. melodius enters and works on contest

Don't need a lot of dialogue here, just scenes with melodius entering the contest on paper, then going home and spending all his time thinking about what song he would want to enter with. "I need a song so good that it cannot fail." Montage of melodius composing the song?

Princess overhears mel practicing and/or composing the music. As a fellow performer, she is clearly touched by his gift at music.

Includes a cutaway scene where his mother returns during the contest.

As melodius is performing in the contest, his father is working at home, when who should come up the path but his long-missing mother.

F, runs out there;" mother, what happened? Where have you been? What happened?"

Mother: "I've been on the road home from my sister's this entire time! What happened?! What didn't happen! We Lost wheels. We were robbed. We --"

F: "Melodius must have meet up with your robbers, look at this." Hands her back the necklace."He thought you were a goner, and so did I when I saw this!"

Mother: "Oh my! Melodius, where is he?"

F:"Down at the church for some contest, he'll be thrilled to know you're alive, let's go right now!"

5. melodius wins contest but is captured by AC who was disguised as black vines made of tiny people

We see the line of people standing for the contest, and melodius in the contest. Horribly bad music vs. somewhat acceptable music comes out of the contestants, most of whom aren't even given full chance to finish their songs before the audience/judges laugh and boo them off stage. When melodius steps onto stage, the booing starts immediately as the crowd is agitated by that time, but his song immediately shuts up everyone. When he is done, there is a stunned silence and then thunderous applause and chants of "melodius". Melodius is last in line, and the rest of the contestants are in on the applause, so without futher ado the priests quickly confer and go to fetch the harp.

just before the contest, she is there and catches him before he takes the stage in the hall, pulls him behind the pillar and hands over her favor gently.

p: here.

m: wow.... now I know I'm gonna win.

p: you already have. (plants a delicate kiss on him, p blushes as he pulls away to hurry up as they call his name as next)

Melodius goes back, works on the song, performs it and wins. As he is demoing the harp, his father runs to the church with his mother, who is there just in time to see him turn to stone.

Mother: "My baby! What's happening?"

Melodius "Mother!" (turns to stone, we see him trapped watching them get older, etc.)

STORYLINE C: Melodius, the winner of the harp upon trying to play it, turns to stone!

How does the harp not turn anyone else into stone?

The harp doesn't turn him to stone. When melodius plays it, the same black vines emerge from the ground and bite his foot, which slowly turns him to stone. He sees the vines and the hole in the ground, He reaches out and tries to get away, but falls onto the harp which also turns to stone with

him.

Maybe it shows up covered with an ornately embroidered cloth, the religious figures look at it but everyone is intimidated to play it until Melodius wins it.

The harp was designed to trap melodius so he could be used to capture a pure soul, but he doesn't know that. It's a very elaborate trap to eventually get the right person.

6. melodius cast into soulforge in crypt of church and turned to stone, doomed to be stuckforever?

The distraught Princess orders melodius' statue preserved in the church crypt where no one is allowed to go near it.

7. end act 1 with melodius trapped for centuries in the church crypt as he watches everyone die, etc.

his mom hangs the amulet/necklace he recovered for her around his neck as a statue, where it remains for hundreds of years.

maximum possible song configurations: 8 for storyline A + 4 for storyline B = 12 songs max for act 1.

act 2 draft timeline:

act 2 songs are more modern where possible.

0. angelica's intro (looks just like act 1 princess), goes to church + sings with the choir group, after they all leave she stays behind to practice something more challenging.

(see melodius's stone getting older, family dying, church falling into disrepair after non-use, etc)

show flyover of same field from beginning, but with buildings and modern stuff instead.

fast forward 600+ years to school, where funding for the choir is cut.

Show angelica and choir arguing with the director/principal of the school in the hallway.

School admin:...I know it's frustrating but you'll have to make do.

Angelica: but where will the choir practice?!

school admin: just find somewhere, maybe look at the old church up the road.

a: but it has no roof!

admin: better pray for sunshine then...

a: "fine!" I guess we'll check it out.

a + choir enter after school, note the incredible state of disrepair of the church, clearing off altar/choir area, they have practice until the weather fails, when the choir bails on angelica.

A:"Oh come on you guys! It's just a little rain (thunder as rain picks way up)..ok, it's a lot of rain (as they run off, she ducks under a rocky outcropping of the ruined church for shelter)."

from the outcropping, she notices crypt door, so runs in there for shelter. Exploring the crypt, she

takes shelter and practices a complicated version of her choir solo,

a: "oooh, echo!"

she finds the acoustics are better and so sings more. There are a lot of statues stored down there from the church along with other church relics stacked up, rotting papers, etc., but one really looks odd (melodius with the harp).

1. melodius freed by the singing, angelica discovers melodius in crypt

Solo causes noises so she stops and notices melodius' stone.

A: "Hello? Who's there? ...What is going on with that?"

it says something garbled but appears to be fusing very slowly, so she sings more and it fuses more, so she lets go with full solo, and the stone bursts forth, letting melodius fall to the floor (to her surprise and amazement).

Melodius nearly attacks her as he is falling.

A: (screams)

M falls.

A: who are you?

(Screams again) ...catches breath, comes back from against the wall where she jumped back.

A: "What happened! are you ok?"

m: ---

a: "You're freezing cold" A finds a loose blanket down there and puts it on m, attempts to comfort, etc. m finally comes around, is scared.

a: its ok, you're safe here, are you hurt?

m: no, yes, i dont know. (notices decay in crypt, clothes) what? what year is this?

a: its year 2012, tc.

m, stone faced: it's been 600 years...everything i knew is gone. my family is gone, im all alone!

A: 600 years? How is that possible?

M: explains story.

a: ok, dont worry, we'll get you help.

m: we?

a: the choir, my family. i took shelter here from the storm. when i sang the solo, you appeared from the stone.

m: your singing must have undone the curse that the ac put on me. sing the song again, so i can hear.

a, embarrassed: sing now? I'm uncomfortable with an unfamiliar audience... i'm much better by myself.

m: I can understand, but you must learn. I am a student of music, and I can help you to overcome your fear of singing to a small group, just start and I'll join in.

a: join in? but how! you don't know the song.

m: I have a unique gift, just trust me and sing the song that freed me.

a starts to sing, and m is able to join in with a brilliant harmony, filling in wherever there are gaps. a feels empowered by his prodigious talent to give the performance everything, and soon m realizes that

they have something incredible together.
a+ m get closer at one point, only she recoils --

a: "phew! we gotta get you cleaned up."

m: "I cant' take help for free... you'll have to let me sing in the choir or something to help repay your kindness."

a: "I'm sure we can work something out." still wincing at the smell.

he reeks of 600 years' worth of decay. she offers to help him get cleaned up if he'll help her with music, etc. issues.

Melodius pulls off some stones from the harp for money as needed for subsistence.

2. melodius + angelica become friends

Possible scene: melodius meets angelica for first time after being freed from the stone prison
melodius and angelica talk as she comforts his injuries, both physical and mental, from being trapped for so long

is angelica captured by the antichrist right away pretty much, or sometime later after melodius helps her with some social problems, etc?

cleanup scene,

M in shower: "This hot water is the greatest thing ever!"

a: "great! I'm glad you like it. you can borrow some of my brother/father/etc.'s old clothes, they're out here."

(some time passes)

m from inside bathroom: how does this work? (bzzzz) (jumps)

a: "it's an electric razor, you shave with it."

m: "ah."

(some time passes)

see a montage of melodius getting cleaned up, perfectionist-style... I.e. macro lens shots of him precision cutting his own hair with the scissors, etc.

a: "doing ok in there?"

m emerges, looking completely different.

A: (blushes, looks away for a moment)

m: "do I look ok?"

a: fake shrugs, "yeah, ok I guess."

mel cleans up incredibly well. Always appeared dirty, poor in the early scenes, now looks amazing and put-together. a is shocked and lovestruck.
m continues to help with singing in montage that includes some non-repulsed embraces.

STORYLINE C: melodius is taken into angelica's family vs. just hiding out in the crypt - unnecessary now since he gets money from stones on the harp. Maybe he visits there or something for initial cleanup scene.

STORYLINE B: melodius defends angelica against an attack of some kind

a is alone walking home or something when she is harassed by a bunch of jerks, m steps in to defend her. He easily scares off the modern-age people due to his ancient, murderous rage.

4. melodius forms band with angelica's help on flyers, at practice is where angelica is kidnapped

STORYLINE B: melodius forms band on his own, invites angelica to a practice where she is kidnapped by AC

consider having melodius briefly attend school with angelica as an exchange student?

So in this case, melodius DOES attend school and form the band there... or at least he forms one with flyers from around town before angelica gets kidnapped.

5. melodius and band agree to seek her recovery at any cost

During band practice, melodius sees the ground opening and the black vines coming out to grab Angelica.

"ANGELICA, NOOOO!"

she screams and is pulled underground to the amazement of the band members.

m: we need to rescue her, but to do it we'll need a different kind of music, we must open the gates of hell so we can enter and get her back!

Choir and m exit to get metal gear.

6. melodius and band get new instruments at creepy magic shop

Melodius is in search of an instrument with his band that can open the gates of hell from the surface side.

They are walking down the street and amongst all the regular buildings, there is a creepy old magic shop wedged in between. "well, if anyone will even know, maybe they would know in here.

Perhaps the can cast a spell on an existing instrument." Melodius says/thinks. Inside, the ancient shopkeeper listens to their story, and says, "no charm will allow a regular instrument to do that, but I may have what you need."

They go into the back room, which is 100 times creepier than the store already was.

In the back room are the instruments of the devil's band. "these were retrieved from a cave many centuries ago, and while the regular instruments from that time rotted away, the instruments are apparently cursed!

They will kill anyone who touches them"

Melodius says, "I'm already cursed, so they won't kill me.
Besides, we can't waste any time, we have to use them."
They take down the instruments and are able to play them, etc.

STORYLINE B: melodius's band members each find instruments in amusingly evil/holy settings

melodius and band open the gates of hell with new song/instruments and enter (end act 2, act 3 starts with them entering hell) m+choir form metal band, practice in crypt and create a sound that opens the gates of hell. m: once we go in, there may not be a way out. if you're in with me here, you're in it till the end, to save A.

are you all with me? (Agrees)
m: then let's go! (band charges thru gates, end act 2).

maximum possible song configurations: 8 for storyline A + 5 for storyline B + 1 for storyline C = 14 songs max for act 2.

act 3 draft timeline: act 3 songs are creepy, maxed out where possible.

0.hell's intro, angelica trapped with AC

1.band encounters hell's traps scene in hell:

m + bandmates head for the volcano at the center of hell city. The first cave is full of gold to the brim, including many statues of people. Melodius quickly realizes that the statues are of people trying to take gold from the place.

m to choir: be ready, at any time we could be tested. Don't mess with any of the gold, we gotta get to Angelica.

the guitar player notices a gold guitar and wanders over there briefly.

m: don't touch it, no!

g: aahhhh! (turns to gold when he touches the guitar)

m to c: we have to keep going, a needs us!

(c agrees, continues on)

2.band slowly overcomes the various traps

second room is full of monsters.

Cerberus-like beast appears, with giant ears, thwarting progress, band tries to dodge but no use.

m: giant ears...play everyone! play to get rid of it! choir plays loud, animal thwarted but in leaving the animal knocks bass player into river of lava.

m: just us 3 left, keys drums and me.

lets move! (they run for the mountain)

3.almost all the way there, 3 doors appear.

At the mountain, hot as hell with lava pouring down. Sisyphus goes by with the stone up the mountain.

m: we'll have to each open one and go in, one of them has to be correct. d: why dont we all go in one door?

k: yeah, that way we have a better chance against whatever's inside - look, here's a door with an + symbol, that must be it!

d: no man! this one here has to be it, you can hear a screaming in there, come on lets get her!

k+d start arguing, and m hears rumbling from volcano, assumes that this is some kinda mind trick, and notices ice on a rocky outcropping away from the doors, and m just runs over there, leaving bandmates

to argue

4. only melodius makes it through to final area with angelica and AC

(in corridor) the molten lava and noise subside, and the obsidian faces of the wall turn to cold steel. melodius wedges himself into a small opening, (SUSPENSE + DARK ADDED) which opens up into the side of a massive throne room of the AC. Ice everywhere. AC remains invisible due to helm of darkness until it is removed in the rising scene specified below.

A is tied to an altar/etc about to be tossed into the soulforge, which causes her soul to be torn from her body and kept in hell forever despite being forgiven.

A and M embrace, he goes to get her off of the ties when the camera pans out to show the AC is rising in the background! AC removes helm of darkness, we can see AC is incredibly large, jet black with 3 pairs of wings, fangs, eyes, etc. and made of the tiny people from the beginning.

AC zaps M and goes to kill A for her soul.

M is saved by wearing the amulet that he got from his mom at the end of act 1.

5. melodius is resurrected and returns with angel band to defeat AC

Mel defeats AC using undead band members, they open a gate to the sky from which Apollo convinces Zeus to strike down the AC with lightning. AC is defeated to much rejoicing.

Band ghosts disappear, AC falls and Explodes/fires projectiles at M+A, M Covers A to protect + M takes most of the damage?

M gets hit in the back after defeating the AC, as he's running up to A in victory. The AC throws some sort of weapon that strikes M but doesn't immediately kill M, he dies in a few minutes. Then the emotional scene turns from happiness to sadness. But A is safe, and M knows that ... then we cut away to the final scenes with the kid as below.

fast forward a few years and show melodius jr. able to play with melodius's heaven band in some kinda crazy temple in the back yard/basement. Elude to the fact that there will be a sequel, because as the band plays, you can see the evil rising in some super crazy undead form back in hell at the sound!