

# SEASON 4 ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK



SONGS BY DANIEL INGRAM

SCORE BY WILLIAM ANDERSON



Annotated Score for the Season 4 soundtrack of  
My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic

To compliment the season 4 song, instrumental,  
and BGM rip collection by RainShadow

Get the full soundtrack at <http://www.youtube.com/user/Homestar14>

# SOUNDTRACK OUTLINE

## Disc 1

Songs

## Disc 2

The complete Season 4 score

## Disc 3

Song karaoke versions (w/ backing vocals or chorus)  
Instrumentals

\* Discs 1 & 3 are grouped in one download, and Disc 2 in a second one

# SEASON 4 OVERVIEW

After a long offseason, *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic* returns for its much anticipated fourth season! And boy, does it deliver.

Diving into new, yet familiar territories, our cast of small equines face new challenges, new foes, and Equestria's newest princess struggles to find her place in it all.

The scope of season four expands greatly from prior seasons, both in episode content, character development, and overall continuity. Right from the start, we are presented with an overarching plot which will be touched on in multiple episodes throughout the season, ultimately coming together in the final episodes. With multiple continuing plot lines, and episode tie-ins and callbacks, structure-wise this is the most complicated season of the series.

Music-wise this was no exception. Songwriter Daniel Ingram and score composer William Anderson really upped their output this season, lending us 24 songs and 285 tracks of background music. The emotion, complexity, and overall quality of all of these is well beyond what we've heard from the series thus far. This is especially true with William Anderson's score, which utilizes numerous musical motifs throughout the season to tie it all together.

Daniel Ingram continues to prove that he and his team can conquer just about any genre of music, with new-to-the-series musical styles such as "Bats!" and "Glass of Water", to show-stopping numbers such as "You'll Play Your Part" and "Generosity", to one of the biggest, coolest, and most unexpected highlights to the season: guest star "Weird" Al. Overall, from the fantastic opener to the epic closure, season four is one which will be fondly remembered, and leaves what's to come all the more anticipated.

# PRINCESS TWILIGHT SPARKLE, PARTS 1 & 2

Twilight Sparkle is still adapting to not only her new wings, but her role as a princess of Equestria. However, once Princesses Celestia and Luna mysteriously disappear, and the Everfree Forest begins to invade Ponyville, it's up to Twilight to take charge and figure out who...or what...is behind this.

## Score

As with another fantastic season opener, "The Return of Harmony", this two-part episode contains no songs. However, this is balanced out by a stunning score from William Anderson, which completely blows anything prior out of the water.

From the start, we have a "grand" opening score "It Doesn't Feel Right," which introduces some motifs which will be heard multiple times throughout the season.

This is soon followed by one of the best and most emotional musical themes from the series, "Celestia's Lament". Utilizing some beautiful piano arpeggios and powerful strings, Anderson drives home Celestia's feelings about Luna's banishment, and her return. Without even watching the scene, you can feel her emotions. This theme is brought back in this episode's show-stopping score "Luna's Banishment Suite," which to date is still one of the best compositions for the series. Starting out with a tense action-based score, the music changes to a slightly-altered callback to "Luna's Theme", which appeared in Season 3's "Sleepless in Ponyville", and will appear again during Luna's appearance in "For Whom the Sweetie Belle Toils" this season. After Luna strikes down Celestia, the score becomes a masterpiece, interweaving a reprise of "Celestia's Lament" during the emotional climax as she banishes her sister to the moon.

# PRINCESS TWILIGHT SPARKLE, PARTS 1 & 2

Other "key" motifs are also introduced, or reestablished in this episode. We have the return of "The Magic of Friendship" theme, previously used in season 3's "Magic Dual" and "Keep Calm and Flutter On", as well as the end of "Equestria Girls". This season solidifies that theme as the "friendship" motif. This is one of my favorite of Anderson's reoccurring themes, as it can be easily taken from a small and soft emotional piece, such as its appearances in season 3, to a huge, climactic score as seen in "Equestria Girls" and later parts of this season. Listen for it at the beginning of "Entering the Forest".

The episode ends with a new motif, "Princess Twilight's Theme", which is reprised in a huge way in the season finale. During the "Saving Twilight & The Tree" track, William Anderson reprises another theme as Celestia and Luna are released by the vines, this is the track "Passing the Test" from the end of season 3's opener "The Crystal Empire". The subconscious connection between these two episodes and Twilight passing a "test" is really made thanks to this reprise.

And we wouldn't not be able to move on without mentioning probably the biggest motif of the season, "Six Locks, Six Keys." The mysterious and beautiful theme plays as the curious chest appears from the Tree of Harmony. The theme goes unheard again for multiple episodes, before it suddenly appears in "Rarity Takes Manehattan" as Rarity comes to a realization about her generosity, and then again as a rainbow gleam shines over a gift given to her from a new friend who she taught it to. As the theme appears again over the course of four more episodes, with the same rainbow gleams and situations, it is apparent that these will be, or somehow will relate to, the keys to unlocking the chest. In addition to an overarching season plot of this magnitude, an overarching theme like this to tie these events together is also unprecedented for this show. William Anderson did an amazing job with this motif, and it is awesome to see it used in such a way. Daniel Ingram even makes sure to utilize the same theme during Pinkie Pie's key reveal in "Pinkie Pride", where he took over the score duties for Anderson for the musical episode. This theme is of course used in the season finale, where it is composed slightly differently to exemplify the magnitude of the events of that episode.

# CASTLE MANE-ia

After receiving a letter from Princess Celestia, Twilight Sparkle returns to the old Castle of the Pony Sisters to utilize the books there to research the mysterious chest. The rest of the Mane 6 all coincidentally arrive there, and begin to be stalked by the pony of shadows. But is it all just in their heads, or does the sinister pony of legend really exist?

## Score

This bulk of this episode's score is comprised of dark and creepy music to set the tone for the mysterious old castle.

And what is a spooky castle without a spooky organ? The track "Toccata and Pie" contains some really fantastic organ playing, which sets the mood for the "climax" of the episode quite well.

The final track of the episode begins with a really nice harpsichord, piano, and glockenspiel theme. Surprisingly, I do not think this theme appeared again during the season...I thought it would become the motif for journal entries, but William Anderson stuck with the traditional "Celestia Letter" themes.

As Twilight suggests that the group begin keeping a "Friendship Journal", much like Celestia and Luna once did, we get a simple reprise of the fantastic "The Magic of Friendship" theme.

# DARING DON'T

A stylized illustration of Rainbow Dash and Daring Do. Rainbow Dash is on the right, looking towards the left with a determined expression. Daring Do is on the left, wearing her signature goggles and a green vest, looking towards the right. They are both set against a dark, textured background with a large, faint 'X' shape.

Rainbow Dash is excited for the release of the new Daring Do novel. However, when she finds out the book has been delayed for unknown reasons, she embarks on a quest to find the author, and help her complete it if need be. But who Dash finds is more than she ever expected.

## Score

This episode's score lives up to the movie which it is parodying. It is filled with some fantastic action BGM, and reprises many themes from the episode Daring Do previously appeared in: season 2's "Read it and Weep". The episode wastes no time, providing an action-paced opening fantasy scene.

"The Quest for the Author" closely parodies the theme from "Indiana Jones". More fantastic fight scene BGM follows, with Daring Do's theme interweaved in. A new motif emerges as Dr. Caballeron enters: a sort-of suave, totally classy bad-guy Middle Eastern-type music.

The episode isn't without its share of emotional music too. The track "It Hurts... In Here" really brings some strong feels to the viewer as Dash talks about how she feels rejected by one of her heroes. This track also reprises "The Magic of Friendship" theme which will continue to be used throughout the season during scenes relating to friendship. The track ends with a new beautiful theme.

The episode ends with some superb fight scene music, all the while reprising both Ahuizotl and Daring Do's themes.

# FLIGHT TO THE FINISH

In one of the most heartfelt anticipated episodes of the season, with one of the most weighty morals of the series, Scootaloo must come to grips with her inability to fly after Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon use it as an excuse to make fun of her. Scootaloo, attempting to represent the "Pegasi" during the Equestria Games opening ceremonies must try her best to attempt to fly, or come to terms with her inability. On another story note, this episode also continues the "Equestria Games" arc started in season 3

## Hearts Strong as Horses

After four long episodes without a song, season 4 finally gets its first musical number—and it's from the CMC! Daniel Ingram starts out with a song that definitely has a different feel from any song prior in the series. Taking obvious inspiration from the main song in the Disney movie "Mulan", the number utilizes a full orchestra with a prominent mandolin and strong vocal harmonies.

One of the best parts about this song is how it is mixed. Unlike most songs, each singer is featured in a separate channel. This gives us the ability to separate each singer's vocals to hear them individually. It becomes even more interesting, since this is also the first song ("99 Buckets of Oats" excluded) for which Claire Corlett sings for Sweetie Belle instead of Michelle Creber. And she does a fantastic job!

The reprise packs an even bigger emotional punch, and takes on new meaning given what Scootaloo has gone through and learns over the course of the episode. Mixed with the visuals, you have a real winner & fantastic first entry to season 4 from Ingram.

# FLIGHT TO THE FINISH

## Score

The fantastic musical number isn't the only great thing about this episode. William Anderson, as always, delivers on the episode's score, highlighting both the highlights and the lows of the story.

We start out with the return of Ms. Harshwhinny as she returns to judge Ponyville's entries for potential flag carriers for the Equestria Games. She brings with her staccato string theme which we heard in season 3's "Games Ponies Play". Rainbow Dash also gets some fun guitar themes here.

In the track "Ponyville Forever!", and again at the end of the episode, we hear the CMC's music for their potential "Equestria Games" act. This theme is fittingly reprised in the episode "Equestria Games" when they actually perform during the opening ceremonies.

As Scootaloo tries...and fails...to fly, the score begins to become more and more emotional, starting in the track "I Just...Can't". The feels become stronger in the next track "Giving Up", as Scootaloo confronts Sweetie Belle and Apple Bloom about her giving up trying to fly.

The episode and soundtrack reaches its emotional peak in the second-to-last track "You're You", as Rainbow Dash steps into her sisterly role and gives Scootaloo some very heartfelt and wise advice. The soft piano and string melody that plays as Dash is talking is fantastic and tear-inducing.

# POWER PONIES

After Spike purchases a comic from an...enchanted comic book store...he and his friends are sucked into its world and must defeat the evil Mane-iac to escape!

## Score

In one of the most original and out-there episodes of the series, we also get some fantastically different superhero-style BGM to complement.

This episode introduces a new motif just for this episode, the "Power Ponies" theme. This super-heroic theme, obviously a parody of the style of other hero theme, appears throughout the episode at key moments, beginning during the introduction track, "Spike's Comic", with a longer version appearing in "The Power Ponies".

The score for this episode, being superhero-inspired, relies heavily on the horn section of the orchestra to drive its valiant themes. Much of it actually reminds me of the soundtrack to "Captain America".

The episode does have its share of emotional parts too, including when Twilight Sparkle tells the Mane-iac how Spike always comes through for them when he needs to.

After some more fantastic action music and "Power Ponies" themes, the episode ends with the traditional Friendship is Magic lesson theme as Spike makes a journal entry.

# BATS!

Vampire fruit bats have invaded Sweet Apple Acres! Applejack has had enough and is trying to get rid of them. However, Fluttershy insists that they aren't all that bad, have some positive effects on the orchard, and that kicking them out would have a negative effect on their families. It's Apple vs Shy in this argument, which leads to an unexpected outcome which forces AJ to change her point of view.

## Bats

If the header didn't make it clear, we are now discussing the song "Bats" from "Bats!"

In the second song of the season, Daniel Ingram once again tries something new and completely different from previous songs in the series. "Bats" pays homage to composer Danny Elfman, most specifically his songs and score for the movie "The Nightmare Before Christmas". Ingram also cites "The Mob Song" from the Disney classic "The Beauty and the Beast" as inspiration for the song's climax where the Mane 6 join in and begin to chant around Fluttershy.

Unlike many songs from the series, this does not rely on strong melodies or harmony, rather the rhythm and lyrics. It's fantastic to have another song which features a back-and-forth duet, much like "May the Best Pet Win" from season 2. You have to appreciate how the tone of the song changes during Applejack and Fluttershy's individual parts, matching their tone, mood, and viewpoint.

What really makes the song work is the sort-of off-tempo backing track that orchestrator Steffan Andrews supplies. It's fantastic—he definitely had some fun here.

# BATS!

## Score

The score for this episode utilizes a wide variety of genres of music, changing from more traditional Friendship is Magic fare, to eerie, tense, and downright frightening as Fluttershy makes her transformation, to even some new electronic music.

William Anderson starts us out with an amazing track for Applejack as she awaits the sun to arise for the much anticipated "Applebucking Day." The beginning of this track is simply beautiful, and once the sun arises, we get a great western-style theme for AJ.

Pinkie then drops an hilarious reference to "Winter Wrap Up" from season 1—the second reference to that song this season. This track also has some lovely parts to it. The tracks continue to become more intense and spooky as the Mane 6 try to take on the fruit bats, all leading up to the big reveal in "Flutterbat". This track starts out with an awesome organ part which sounds like something out of an old video game.

The score really takes a turn during the track "Blame Grid". Here, Twilight explains to her friends what she thinks happened to Fluttershy through the use of a very Tron-like magical display. The music complements this feel, bringing us something completely different from anything we've heard from the series before. This electronic Tron-like music is fantastically well done, and reminds me a bit of music from Portal 2.

After this, we return to the more action-y themes as the Mane 6 attempt to turn Flutterbat back to normal. As the episode concludes, we get a reprise of the track "Apples Departing" from the season 3 episode "Apple Family Reunion".

# RARITY TAKES MANHATTAN

After two years a Rarity-centric episode finally appears! Rarity and the rest of the Mane 6 travel to Manehattan for Fashion Week, where our favorite fashion pony is to compete. But when her generous nature gets the better of her, will she turn into that which she despises?

## Generosity

Ponies just bursting into song in random places at the drop of a hat...WHO DOES THAT?!

In the third song of season 4, Rarity sings a show-stopping number about her element. Unlike the past two songs, "Generosity" has a much more contemporary musical style, taking much inspiration from the "Big Band" genre—very fitting for the New York-type setting of the episode. Daniel Ingram hits the modern musical style right on the head. Seriously, where on TV will you hear this quality of musical number anymore?

The song has a similar feel to many more recent musicals, as well as some from the late 80s/90s. The songs "Good Morning Baltimore" from "Hairspray", and "Downtown" from the musical "Little Shop of Horrors" come to mind in terms of similar style and content. Ingram also cites Frank Sinatra's music, such as "New York, New York" as inspiration.

This song also has a fantastic somber reprise later in the episode. There really is no better way to describe it other than "beautiful." The reprise is much more orchestral than the original. Orchestrators Steffan Andrews and David Corman plus this track with some fantastic and emotional strings, woodwind, and beautiful percussion.

# RARITY TAKES MANEHATTAN

## Score

William Anderson starts the episode out with a gorgeous score for the Mane 6 entering Manehattan, complete with a beautiful piano part, and epic horn section.

The track "'TAXI!'" introduces a new musical motif for the episode, the "Rarity Takes Manehattan" theme. This wonderful string and piano theme will be reprised multiple times throughout the episode. Another new motif comes in the track "Suri Polomare". This high-class theme represents the new antagonist of the same name, and appears when she is onscreen.

"Isn't Friendship Magic" features Rarity's normal style of BGM taken to a whole 'nother level. It's of course harpsichord, but is very quick-paced and over-the-top, matching Rarity's mood, and making the entire scene much better and more meaningful. The music continues to become bigger and more orchestrated as her rage intensifies.

It has also been a while since we've had any fashion show BGM, and here's the perfect place for some! William Anderson always does a great job with this, and "Hotel Chic" is no exception.

This episode also presents the first key for the season. As Rarity sees the empty space in the stands where her friends should be, we get our first rainbow eyes glimmer, and the first reappearance of the fantastic "Six Locks, Six Keys" theme, which made its first appearance in the season 4 opener, and will appear again at the end of the episode and for every key reveal.

The episode ends with a few beautiful compositions. Starting with a great theme which we'll hear later in the season too in "The Most Wonderful of Friends". The highlight track for this episode has to be "Coco Pommel". Starting out with a reprise of a theme from "One Bad Apple" the music become surprisingly exquisite as the new character enters. Anderson takes the "Rarity takes Manehattan" theme from earlier here and plusses it to an almost Godly amount!

# PINKIE APPLE PIE

Pinkie Pie discovers that she might be related to Applejack. Unsure whether this is true, Pinkie & the Apple family take a trek to see Goldie Delicious, who follows the family's history.

## Apples to the Core

After being shown in an unfinished animatic state during the 2013 SDCC, "Apples to the Core" was probably one of the season's most anticipated songs. Not only does this song bring more fantastic Applejack, Pinkie Pie, and Apple Bloom singing, but also marks the singing debut of both Granny Smith and Big Macintosh, who can be heard singing in the chorus.

This song has some fantastic vocal harmonies during its chorus, and with each iteration more and more of the family join in, which adds a nice progression to the song. You can hear these wonderful backing vocals better in the "Instrumental w/ Backing Vocals" version. Pinkie's soprano vocals during the last choruses are the best.

"Apples to the Core" is probably the closest to a "traditional" Friendship is Magic song this season, and is a kind of song you'd really only hear from this show.

The backing track for the song is some of the best this season thus far, with some ridiculously catchy bass, banjo, and fiddle. Adam Lastikwa and Dave Cormon, who helped with the production of the song, as well as fiddle player Caleb Chan, really made this track stand out this season. The fiddle and banjo parts are definitely the highlights of the song.

# PINKIE APPLE PIE

## Score

As with any Applejack and Apple family episode, this one is filled with numerous fantastic country and western-type musical pieces. We start off the episode with the track "Genealogical Research" as Twilight is doing some reading in the library, and are immediately introduced to a new motif for the season. This one is reprised a little later in the track "Journal Time" from the CMC & Twilight episode "Twilight Time". It's a soothing piece that fits well with the series.

The next few tracks retread on some classic Applejack and Apple family themes, until we get to the wonderful rafting trip. "The Waterfall" offers a fairly hilarious banjo part to complement the intense, but hysterically cliché and expected waterfall. The score changes to a little more orchestral when we return from the break.

The BGM takes an emotional turn in "The Best Family Ever!" as the Apple family comes to grips that they have not been showing Pinkie Pie the best side of their family. The motif here is a reprise of one that originally appeared in "Apple Family Reunion" in the track "Ruined. Everything is Ruined". It then shifts to another theme from that same episode "Apples Departing". Both are fantastic somber pieces which uses harp and flute beautifully.

To switch the score up a little bit, we next have the introduction of Goldie Delicious, who has her own fun ragtime music accompanying her.

Goldie Delicious is unfortunately not able to confirm or deny Pinkie's true status as an Apple, but Applejack comes and tells her that after all they've been through today, and what she has taught them, she is truly an "Apple to the Core"! During this scene, we have a fantastic emotional banjo piece. The episode closes out with William Anderson reprising the main tune from Ingram's "Apples to the Core". It's interesting to see Anderson's take on Ingram's song here, and it nicely bookends the episode. I love collaboration like this in artistic work!

# RAINBOW FALLS

The Mane 6 are traveling to the village of Rainbow Falls, where the tryouts for the Equestria Games are happening. Dash plans on competing with Fluttershy and Bulk Biceps, representing the Ponyville team in the Aerial Relay. But when she's approached by Spitfire about flying with the Cloudsdale team, Dash must choose between one of her lifelong dreams and heroes, and her friends and adopted home.

## Score

The score for "Rainbow Falls" reprises a lot of themes from the season 3 episode "Wonderbolts Academy", and utilizes many marches and training-style music. The episode begins with the introduction of a new motif, the "Rainbow Falls" theme. This BGM is used again in future episodes when the Mane 6 return to Rainbow Falls.

"The Teams" brings with it a reprise of a few themes, including the "Wonderbolts Academy" theme from that episode, which is followed by "The Wonderbolts" theme music, which we've heard multiple times over the course of the past three seasons.

"Gonna Train Now" offers some new "training montage" BGM for the series, obviously paying homage to the song "Gonna Fly Now" from the classic movie "Rocky". The score quickly turns more somber as Twilight confronts Rainbow Dash in "What Would You Do?".

Along with the return of Derpy, "Loyalty is the Key" brings us the next iteration in our "...is the Key" musical series, and the next "Rainbow Eyes" moment. As Rainbow Dash stares at the flag Derpy left, we get a fantastic reprise of the "Six Locks, Six Keys" theme, which we last heard in the previous key episode "Rarity Takes Manehattan", as well as in the season opener when the mysterious chest was revealed. The theme is much more "epic" sounding here. The motif returns once again at the episode's end as the rainbow shimmers on the key.

# THREE'S A CROWD

Princess Cadance comes to town to spend some time with Twilight Sparkle, as they never seem to get any time together outside of "saving the world." However, when Fluttershy goes out of town to study the Breezies, Discord shows up wanting some attention. And who better to give him the attention he wants and deserves than everybody's favorite Alicorn Princess, Twilight Sparkle?

## Glass of Water

Here we go—this was definitely one of the highlights of the season. Discord and John de Lancie receive their first song of the series, and it was definitely worth the wait!

Of all the songs in the entire series, this one has the most insane pace, lyrics, and visuals by far. The visuals by themselves almost overload you, and the song only exemplifies this effect.

What starts out with a more mild pace and bouncy rhythm, quickly turns into an out-of-control ride that continuously increases in speed and complexity as it proceeds. Discord's singing is in a Sprechgesang-style, meaning he's not quite always singing nor just speaking, which fits his character so perfectly. The song is reminiscent in many ways of "A Friend Like Me" from the Disney movie "Aladdin", which has Robin Williams as the Genie singing in a similar style

The vocal expressions John De Lancie gives during this song are incredible and greatly fun to listen to. It's also fun to hear just how many words episode writer Ed Valentine was able to rhyme with "please."

The backing track, orchestrated by Steffan Andrews, could not have been easy to create, but really shines with its humorous and "bouncy" nature. While I really like Friendship is Magic's more traditional songs and it's Broadway-style numbers, it's always a treat to hear Daniel Ingram try out new, different, and complex styles like in this song and "Bats".

# THREE'S A CROWD

## Score

This episode's score is filled with sarcastic pity violin and a sizable amount of harpsichord. You'd almost think it's a Rarity episode. I guess the point being Discord is acting quite over-dramatically, much like Rarity—a nice subtle musical joke by William Anderson & team! Heck, Discord even requests a "fainting couch" during the episode, at which point everyone looks at Rarity. The BGM isn't all small and sarcastic, however. We do get a very high-octane battle piece as Twilight and Cadence battle the quite horrifying Tatzlwurm.

"Departures and Arrivals" brings back a few themes: both the motif from the beginning of "Princess Twilight Sparkle", and then the normal Crystal Empire BGM. As Discord graces our presence in "DUCK!!!" and "A Sick Draconequeus", we also get the return of Discord's themes. The latter gives us plenty of "pity violin" and harpsichord as Discord has many Rarity moments.

The score begins to become more epic and orchestral as Discord sends the two princesses out to find him a cure for his "Blue Flu". It reaches its peak during the huge battle piece "The Tatzlwurm". This theme is a slightly more intense version of one we heard all the way back in the season 3 premiere "The Crystal Empire" in the track "Not a Claw, Spike".

We end with some new Discord-style BGM in "There For You" which drifts into a slightly more orchestrated theme near the end as Cadance admits she's actually enjoyed her time with Twilight today.

The episode ends with some lesson music we last heard in "Rainbow Falls", followed by William Anderson utilizing a musical stinger to end the episode, which is based upon Daniel Ingram's song "Glass of Water".

# PINKIE PRIDE

Here it is—probably the most anticipated episode of season 4, potentially with the exception of the season finale. Pinkie Pie is planning a party for Rainbow Dash's birthaversary. But when a mysterious new party planner comes to town and begins planning a better party, Pinkie must come to terms that she might not be the best. Oh, and the mysterious new party planner is Cheese Sandwich, who is voiced by none other than "Weird Al" Yankovic! This is one of the biggest moments and largest highlights for the Friendship is Magic series as a whole, and the episode itself is definitely one of the best of the series. And its a musical! William Anderson gives up the reins for the score on this episode, allowing Daniel Ingram and Steffan Andrews to provide a combined musical experience like no other! So prepare yourself for music, polka, and hilarious antics!

## Pinky the Party Planner

After the opener, the episode begins with our first song of this musical episode! This is our first Pinkie solo song since season 2's "Smile, Smile, Smile!", which is amazing after all the songs she received in season 1. This song has a lot in common with that song, being that Pinkie is again singing about how she loves to improve other's days via parties, even getting the entire town to sing along with her in the end.

The song also has similar vibes to the opening song of the previous Friendship is Magic musical episode, "Magical Mystery Cure", the song "Morning in Ponyville". Both songs are homages to the Broadway musical style, reminiscent of Disney musicals from the 90s. Amy Keating Rogers, the episode's writer, stated that the lyrics were originally written to the tune of the big opening number to "Beauty and the Beast", "Belle." The sequence and song unintentionally match that sequence very closely.

This song is also notable for featuring the singing debuts of Mr. and Mrs. Cake, as well as Diamond Tiara.

# PINKIE PRIDE

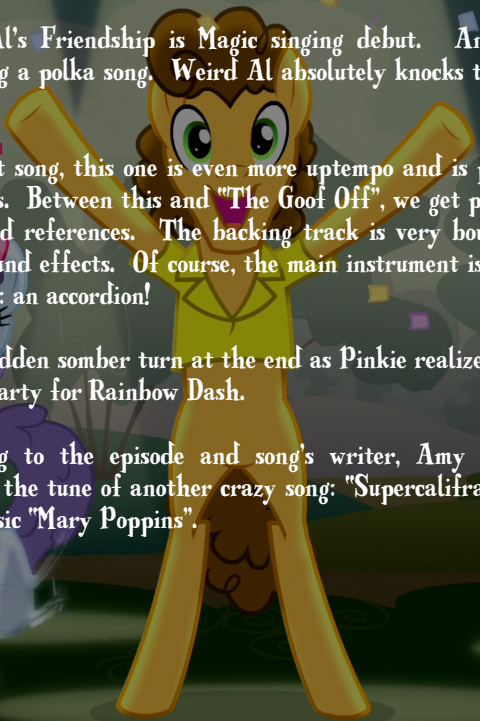
## The Super Duper Party Pony

Here it is—Weird Al's Friendship is Magic singing debut. And look: he's playing himself! And singing a polka song. Weird Al absolutely knocks the vocals out-of-the-park here.

Compared to the last song, this one is even more uptempo and is pretty insane both in the audio and visuals. Between this and "The Goof Off", we get pretty close to Discord levels of zaniness and references. The backing track is very bouncy, and filled with different whacky sound effects. Of course, the main instrument is none other than the Weird Al trademark: an accordion!

However, we get a sudden somber turn at the end as Pinkie realizes Cheese Sandwich is overshadowing her party for Rainbow Dash.

This song, according to the episode and song's writer, Amy Keating Rogers, was originally written to the tune of another crazy song: "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" from the Disney classic "Mary Poppins".



# PINKIE PRIDE

## Pinkie's Lament

"Pinkie's Lament" gives us a sudden shift from the rest in the episode. A slow, sad, and emotional song which Pinkie Pie sings as she has realized Cheese Sandwich's party has greatly overshadowed her's, and everyone has seemingly forgotten about her. She tries, and hilariously fails, at many other jobs, before taking some time to look through photos of her past parties. This is when she realizes how much joy she really does bring to others' lives, and how much joy that brings to her in return.

The song starts off sad, but it's great to hear how it slowly becomes more upbeat as Pinkie is looking at the photos, leading to her fantastic, emotional, and grand final chorus. The song then switches back to a small reprise of "Pinkie the Party Planner" to end the number.

Daniel Ingram and song orchestrator Steffan Andrew's talent really shines in this song. The backing track is so emotional and magnificent, and is some of the best of the series. The full orchestra-feel of the song, especially as Pinkie is pulling herself out of her depression, really gives the scene so much more emotion than it would have otherwise.

Shannon Chan-Kent does an absolutely fantastic job singing for Pinkie in this song, putting a large amount of emotion into her vocals while singing, greatly heightening the overall emotion of the song and scene.

The song, according to the episode and song's writer, Amy Keating Rogers, was originally written to the tune of "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" from the musical "Evita."



# PINKIE PRIDE

## The Goof Off

Undoubtedly the show-stopper of the episode, "The Goof Off" is an awesome polka-medley duo song with Cheese Sandwich and Pinkie Pie. This song has so much going on in it, where do we even start? It really does rival Discord's "Glass of Water" song in terms of its zaniness.

There are a ton of subtle Weird Al references in this song, first being that it's a polka-version medley of numerous other songs. One of the most obvious of those songs is of course Weird Al singing "Smile, Smile, Smile", Pinkie's big number from season 2. She even calls him out on it! We also get snippets of songs heard in Weird Al's own polka medleys, including the "Beer Barrel Polka" and the little polka interludes in-between each individual vocal part. There's also Al singing to part of the tune from the song "99 Bottles of Beer." Not to mention Pinkie singing in Spanish at the end.

And how could we not talk about the completely-out-of-left-field live action shots of Boneless and Gummy? Probably the weirdest, and yet funniest thing the show has done.

On a more interesting note, Daniel Ingram stated that Andrea Libman actually sings for Pinkie in this episode rather than Shannon Chan-Kent, who usually sings for Pinkie, including her first couple songs this episode. She did a fantastic job!

The song, according to the episode and song's writer, Amy Keating Rogers, was originally written to the tune of "Together (Wherever We Go)" from "The Brady Bunch."

# Pinkie Pride

## Cheese Confesses

After Pinkie Pie forfeits the Goof Off due to Rainbow Dash no longer having fun, Cheese Sandwich has something to admit to her. Through singing flashback, in "Cheese Confesses" we learn that Cheese Sandwich was actually inspired to become a party planner after seeing a party Pinkie put on as a filly.

This song starts as a more somber reprise of Cheese Sandwich's first song of the episode, "The Super Duper Party Pony". It's great to hear Weird Al singing a slower and more emotional song, and he nails it. Steffan Andrews' fantastic orchestration adds so much more emotion to the song—the mixture of strings and accordion works so well!

## Pinkie the Party Planner (Reprise)

Here we have a small reprise of the opening number to the episode "Pinkie the Party Planner," this time being sung by both Cheese Sandwich and Pinkie as they head off to plan a party for Rainbow Dash together.

# PINKIE PRIDE

## Make a Wish

Of all the songs in the episode, the sixth and final song, "Make a Wish", is the most surprising. Polka? That was a given. Pinkie-style Broadway number? Of course. Sad song? Yeah, gotta have one for the emotional part of the episode. But a full on electro-pop song? That came out of nowhere. But it's great, and will undoubtedly have extended remixes for miles. A little short—but an extended version of the song was released on Volume 2 of the official My Little Pony soundtrack, which is available on iTunes and other online music stores!

The backing track is very high pitched, almost an electrified sitar. It fits Pinkie very well, actually. The song as a whole is very reminiscent of the season 2 finale "A Canterlot Wedding's" final song, "Love is in Bloom". Which makes sense though, since both scenes involve a party put on by Pinkie with music from DJ-PON3.

You've got to love the dancing in this sequence too, both from Pinkie and the Mane 6 backup dancers. Overall, this song was the perfect way to close out this musical episode.

The song, according to the episode and song's writer, Amy Keating Rogers, was originally written to the tune of the song "Raise Your Glass" by Pink.

# PINKIE PRIDE

## Score

Much like Friendship is Magic's previous musical episode, "Magical Mystery Cure", "Pinkie Pride's" score was composed by Daniel Ingram and Steffan Andrews instead of normal composer William Anderson. Being a musical, and already filled to the brim with songs by Ingram, allowing him to also compose the BGM allows for a more seamless flow between the songs, which sometimes have very little time in-between them. One of the best things that is able to happen is that many of the tunes from the songs are reprised or foreshadowed in the score, which is always a fantastic musical touch. A nice example of this is at the end of the track "Parties Are No Picnic" where a small part of the tune from the song that just played, "Pinkie the Party Planner", is used.

For much of the episode, Cheese Sandwich is given spaghetti western-style musical motifs, starting with the episode's opening score "Buffalo Party". This is continued in the track "Cheese Sandwich / Birthiversary" and becomes a little more upbeat, but still western-styled, as Rainbow Dash begins to talk.

"The New Party Pony" offers a sad musical callback to "Pinkie the Party Planner", while "Two Party Planners" gives us part of the tune for "Pinkie's Lament" before that song even happens—some nice musical foreshadowing! "Pinkie's Lament" is also called back to beautifully in the track "Pinkie's Pride" later in the episode. The beginning BGM for "3:10 to Goof Off" is hilarious. We pretty much get Pinkie and Cheese's take on a classic western motif. Complete with accordion, bouncy tuba, and flute. Oh, and whips. Oh, and Mouth Tuba Mouse.

As Pinkie realizes that Dash is no longer having fun, "Laughter is the Key" begins, giving us our third entry into the "...is the Key" BGM series, and out next "rainbow eyes" moment. It's awesome that even though Ingram/Andrews are doing the score for this episode, they still reprise the same "Six Locks, Six Keys" theme William Anderson uses. The episode ends with another reprise of that theme, and a whacky instrumental of "The Goof Off" during the credits.



# SIMPLE WAYS

A famous travel writer whom Rarity has a huge crush on is coming to Ponyville for the town's "Ponyville Days." But when Trenderhoof takes a fancy to Applejack over her, Rarity tries to change her appearance and attitude to match that of her friend.

## Score

The score for this episode is what you would expect--a few love themes intermixed with some great instrumental back and forth, and confusion, as the two characters exchange personalities. There's also a few tracks in here with some completely new themes for the series.

One of those themes appears at the end of the first track "Ponyville Days", and is the "love theme" for this episode. This theme makes it's next appearance in "Trenderhoof" after we get his suave, chill motif. "The Apple of His Eye" also utilizes the love theme quite a bit, but also reprises the Applejack motif "A Minutes Rest" from season 3's "Apple Family Reunion" as Applejack appears on screen.

After a dramatic score for Rarity's over-the-top bawling in "Rarity Weeps", we get "A Poem for Applejack", a poem from Trenderhoof...with tons of "-ity" rhymes.

From there, William Anderson begins to mix the BGM stylings of both Applejack and Rarity as the latter begins to copy the former. This all cumulates in the track "Applejewel / Dueling Ways", which begins with a fun and fancy tango for the new Rarity-inspired Applejewel. Next, the music goes back-and-forth from Applejack's to Rarity's styles of BGM as the two argue back and forth, with their instrument pallets swapped, of course!

"Don't Change Yourself..." provides a fantastic new emotional motif with harp and choir. The episode ends with a track based off of Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake Waltz."

# FILLI VANILLI

It was just two episodes ago where we got a huge musical. Now here we are, and "Filli Vanilli", while technically having only two songs, is filled to the brim with music, encompassing four tracks in the end! In this episode, the Ponytones, of which Rarity and Big Mac are a part of, are planning on singing at a fundraiser for the Ponyville Pet Center. But when Big Mac loses his voice, only one pony can fill in for him... Fluttershy?! This episode has, hands down, some of the best character development in the series, not just for Fluttershy, but for any character.

## Music in the Treetops

It was a long time coming, but we have finally received another Fluttershy solo song! (The last one being season 1's "So Many Wonders".) And yeah, Disney might as well just go ahead and add her to the Disney Princess collection.

"Music in the Treetops" is a straight-up classic Disney musical number, with Fluttershy singing to birds and other animals. The backing track is filled with strings and various woodwinds, which of course fit Fluttershy perfectly. Song orchestrator Trevor Hoffman does a fantastic job here, providing just the right backing instruments for the singing.

The highlight of this song, however, has to be Fluttershy's singing. We don't get to hear Andrea Libman sing that much, since she doesn't usually sing for Pinkie, but she absolutely knocks it out-of-the-park with this song! The more operatic singing that encompasses the second half of the song is beautiful--especially her last note. Andrea hits that note perfectly!

# FILLI VANILLI

## Find the Music in You (A Capella)

Here is the first appearance of the song "Find the Music in You", which is reprised in various forms throughout the rest of the episode. In this version, the Ponytones are singing it a capella—without any backing instruments.

And here's the bombshell! This song is Big Mac's first solo of the series, and one of the few times we hear him speak something other than "eeyep." We heard him in the vocal harmonies of "Apples to the Core" this season, but here his singing is front-and-center, doing so much as to actually lead the group off. Peter New does a fantastic job singing as Big Mac, and this was definitely one of the main highlights of the episode.

On top of that, not only do we get Rarity singing along with the group, but two new ponies voiced by Jerrica Santos and Danny Balkwill. Interestingly enough, Jerrica Santos sang the ending credits song ("Friend for Life") from "Equestria Girls", so this isn't her first appearance singing on the show. It is a rare occasion for this show to have new ponies such as this actually participate in a song outside of being part of a large chorus.

We haven't heard an a capella like this in the show before either. It's quite well done and beautiful. The vocal harmonies are fantastic, and it's fun to listen to each pony's individual part and how it fits with the ensemble as a whole.

# FILLI VANILLI

## Find the Music in You

Here is the main version of the song "Find the Music in You" that we hear during the episode. It encompasses both the Ponytones with Fluttershy's first performance, as well as the reprise that happens during the montage scene.

Firstly, it's great hearing the a capella we listened to earlier blossom into this amazing song with a full backing track. This version also includes an additional bridge and more complex vocal harmonies.

And of course, we cannot forget about Fluttermugy singing—And not just that, but singing so well! How is it possible for such a deep voice to still sound cute? Gotta give kudos to Fluttermugy's singing voice, Marcus Mosley for nailing this. Not to mention how absolutely ridiculously cute Fluttershy becomes as she starts to enjoy the performance. It becomes even more apparent by the end of the reprise during the montage as she adds some awesome and ridiculous embellishments to her part.

One of the cool things about all of the "Find the Music in You" performances is how the animation can help you find who is singing what part. The animators did a fantastic job at matching each character's lip movements with their particular part. If you're not sure who's singing what, just read their lips!

## Find the Music in You (Revealed Reprise)

The main difference with this reprise is Fluttershy's over-the-top ad-libbing and embellishing. And of course Big Mac trying to keep up!

# FILLI VANILLI

## Find the Music in You (In the Treetops Remix)

If "Find the Music in You" was becoming a little too repetitive for you, the episode now presents you with an awesome remix of it that combines it with the first song "Music in the Treetops"! It is wonderful how Daniel Ingram and orchestrators/arrangers Caleb Chan and Trevor Hoffman were able to design these two songs to blend and mix together so well.

This is probably the best musical number of the episode. Not only do we have a perfect meld of the two previous songs, but we have some great harmonies between Fluttershy and the other singers. It's breathtaking how the second half of this song has Fluttershy and the rest of the group singing off each other, with the rest of the group singing the chorus, and Fluttershy singing an absolutely fantastic solo part on top. It's incredibly beautiful, and really adds to the emotion of the scene to hear these two songs we've become accustomed to now be combined. It's quite symbolic and representative of the episode's message, not even including the lyrics which directly deal with the episode's plot line.

On another note, a huge plus here is we get to hear Fluttershy sing in her normal voice again! And Andrea Libman does another fantastic job with her part.

# FILLI VANILLI

## Score

In an episode dominated by musical numbers, it can be quite hard for the score to stand out. But William Anderson and his team do not disappoint here, giving us many memorable tracks in an episode already filled with music.

We start out with one of the wonderful Fluttershy motifs in "Stage Fright", which quickly turns frantic and dark as she discovers her friends heard her singing. More beautiful woodwind themes follow, however, in "The Plan Comes Together" before Big Macintosh appears with quite the dilemma.

As a hoarse Big Mac tries to sing in "A Hoarse Horse", William Anderson drops a little of the tune from Daniel Ingram's "Find the Music in You" on a bassoon, which was a nice touch. It's always nice to see the score and songs working together. As we venture to Zecora in the Everfree Forest for a cure, we get some of her style of BGM.

The next few tracks contain copious amount of very cute woodwind-based Fluttershy motifs. As Fluttershy finds out that Big Macintosh's voice has healed, and is disappointed that she won't be able to sing with the group anymore, we get some simply beautiful score in "One Last Performance".

"Your Own Personal Worst Nightmare" starts out with some frantic Pinkie music as Pinkie does her thing, but then becomes more emotional as the Mane 5 are finally able to confront Fluttershy. During Rarity's speech, we get a higher and more disjointed variation on the "Magic of Friendship" theme which has appeared numerous times since season 3, including the opener to season 4. It's put to lovely use here.

# Twilight Time

Stop. Twilight Time! In this episode, Princess Twilight Sparkle is working with the Cutie Mark Crusaders on learning some new abilities. But when other ponies, particularly Diamond Tiara, notice that the CMC are spending time with Ponyville's newest princess celebrity, they talk them into allowing more and more ponies to tag along. Their newfound popularity begins to go to their heads.

## Score

The episode begins with some graceful music to start in the track "Twilight Time" as the CMC attempt to do some new skills. One of the main CMC themes makes a return in "Tiara Time", as well as a motif for Diamond Tiara. Her theme continues into the next few tracks, along with some nice scheming music.

An older theme is reprised for Twilight in "Twilight Mobbed", and another old theme, this one for the Cutie Mark Crusaders, is reprised in "Cutie Mark Crusaders Celebrities" and "Zombie Time". The latter becomes more intense as a large group of fillies that want more "Twilight Time" appear at Diamond Tiara's gates. "One Last Try" reprises the theme "Watching Paint Dry" from season 3's "Too Many Pinkie Pies".

With "Another Chance" we get to the feels part of the episode, and the best part of this episode's score. The track begins with a somber clarinet theme which we've heard before. The theme then changes and becomes more emotional as the CMC sadly and unknowingly demonstrate what they have learned from Twilight. This is definitely the highlight of the BGM for this episode, and it adds an incredible amount of emotion to the scene. The expansion of the theme from an oboe to a huge orchestra and horn part really hits you. The episode concludes with a journal entry and a musical motif last used in the track "Genealogical Research" during the episode "Pinkie Apple Pie".

# IT AIN'T EASY BEING BREEZIES

"It Ain't Easy Being Breezies" is another Fluttershy-centric episode this season, and one which actually focuses on the negatives kindness can cause instead of just the positives. We also are introduced to a new species in the Friendship is Magic world (at least new to G4): The Breezies! Fluttershy and the rest of Ponyville must help the Breezies return through a portal to their world by creating a breeze for them to travel upon. Things go awry, however, when a small leaf separates the last of the breezes from their group.

## Score

This episode has some fantastic original score, especially (like in "Twilight Time") as we get closer to its end.

After some reprises of different Fluttershy themes at the beginning of the episode, we have our first original and whimsical score as the Breezies enter Ponyville. This track is filled with synth choir and high pitched, almost sad, strings. As it continues, a little flute is added, before the track takes a dark turn as a leaf from Spike sends the back of the group of Breezies into a whirlwind. One of the season's main motifs "The Magic of Friendship" is reprised shortly at the beginning of "House Guests".

The music changes to a more action-oriented score as Seabreeze flees from Fluttershy's cottage and encounters some unfriendly bees. After Fluttershy saves him, we get our next entry into the "...is the Key" BGM series, and our next "rainbow eyes" moment in the track "Kindness is the Key". This track begins with a beautiful, yet sad, woodwind and strings part, before ending with the wonderful "Six Locks, Six Keys" motif, which signifies that a key is on its way.

The beautiful tracks continue with this episode's highlight track, "Through the Portal". What starts as a small theme develops into an extremely grand and emotional piece as the Mane 6 enter the Breezies' world and the Breezies are reunited with their families and friends.

# SOME PONY TO WATCH OVER ME

Applejack, Big Mac, & Granny Smith have a ton of pies to deliver to far-off parts of Equestria. This leaves Apple Bloom alone on the farm, which worries Applejack, who becomes a bit overprotective of her sister. However, after Apple Bloom wanders off to try and teach her sister a lesson, Applejack has to come and rescue her. In the end, both learn a lesson about being sisters.

## Score

The episode begins with some rather intense BGM as Apple Bloom and the other CMC await the Apple family's important decision in "It Could Change Everything... Forever!" Numerous past motifs are reprised in "Pie Deliveries" and "Home Alone". "Apple Bloom Alone", however, brings us a new theme for the Apples, a very nice banjo-driven one.

One of the highlights of this episode is definitely Apple Bloom's "non-song". It starts out sounding like an actual musical number, but is quickly interrupted by Scootaloo, who exclaims that they don't have time for a song. Besides the hilarious breaking of the fourth wall, William Anderson does a stellar job of mimicking the kind of song Daniel Ingram would have done here.

The episode goes through a major tonal shift during the track "Chimera Battle Suite" as Apple Bloom, alone in the Everfree Forest, encounters the three-headed Chimera. This 5 1/2 minute musical suite begins with some spooky woodwinds and strings, before transforming into a more orchestra and brass-driven piece for the rest of the action-filled sequence.

After Applejack rescues Apple Bloom, the track "Applejack's Realization" is filled with a few reprises of past Apple family themes. "Cajun Pie Party", however, offers some original New Orleans-inspired music—a musical style which is new to the series.

# MAUD PiE

In "Maud Pie", we are introduced to Pinkie Pie's older sister, who we previously saw in a photo in "Pinkie Pride," as well as in the Pinkie Pie chapter book. And wow, did she bring the laughs with her monotone deadpan dialogue! Pinkie Pie is excited to introduce her friends to her big sister, but after meeting her, the rest of the Mane 6 is not so sure they really "click" with Maud—and Maud doesn't think so either.

## Score

I think one of the funniest things about this episode was the utter lack of BGM throughout a lot of it—fitting for Maud Pie's Character! The episode begins with a reprise of a theme that is usually reserved for Applejack, but since we're dealing with Pinkie Pie's family rock farm here, it hilariously fits. A little later in the episode, the rest of the Mane 6 must tell Pinkie Pie that they don't think they're going to become friends with Maud in the beautiful track "Between a Rock and a Hard Place." The track quickly becomes very somber and emotional, utilizing a sad clarinet very effectively. It builds up to a nice emotional climax at the end, adding more strings and woodwinds as the message the rest of the Mane 6 are trying to send to Pinkie hits home with the pink pony.

The feels continue in the track "Maud Saves Pinkie". The track becomes an emotional-fest as Maud talks to Pinkie and the rest of the Mane 6. This part is just phenomenal and hits so many emotional chords. The clarinet and the following string part right as Pinkie is chasing after Maud are tear-inducing—the chord progression there is just fantastic. This theme is reprised later in the season in "Inspiration Manifestation" and the season finale's "Why Am I Here?" The track ends with another beautiful motif, which is reminiscent of some of season 1's score.

"Everybody Love Pinkie" has a wonderful piano part which builds into a fully orchestrated version of one of the main motifs of season 4, "The Magic of Friendship". The episode ends by reprising a theme from the very end of season 3's "Too Many Pinkie Pies".

# FOR WHOM THE SWEETIE BELLE TOILS

Rarity helps Sweetie Belle finish her dress designs for a play which the young filly wrote, directed, and is performing. But when Rarity makes some improvements to them, the dresses outshine Sweetie Belle's production. The young filly blames her sister for doing this on purpose, leading her down a path of anger, nightmares, and regret.

## Score

"For Whom the Sweetie Belle Toils" is very much related to season 3's "Sleepless in Ponyville" in story, but is also connected by the music. William Anderson brings back many of the motifs used in that episode in this one, further connecting these two stories together.

The score for this episode really begins to take off about halfway into the episode, as Sweetie Belle becomes more and more frustrated with her sister. "Sweetie Belle's Nightmare" begins her long dream sequence with some parody award show music, but quickly takes a dark turn as an evil Rarity cloud appears. However, none other than Princess Luna comes to save the night! Luna brings her amazing "Luna's Theme" with her. This woodwind and string theme first appeared in Season 3's "Sleepless in Ponyville" (during the track "'Silly Sleep' / Princess Luna / 'It's a Horse Without a HEAD!')", of which this episode is somewhat a continuation. The theme was used in that episode when Luna first appeared to Scootaloo in her nightmare, much like to Sweetie Belle in this one. More recently, the theme appeared in the Season 4 opener "Princess Twilight Sparkle" during the outstanding "Luna's Banishment Suite." This track is soon followed by "The Dreamscape" which can be described as nothing less than "amazing."

When the nightmare really begins to spiral out-of-control (literally!), we get another reprise of a theme from this episode's predecessor, "Sleepless in Ponyville." This loud brass theme was used during Scootaloo's nightmares, specifically the scene where Scootaloo is running through the scary forest right before Luna intervenes in her dreams. "It Just Came to Me... In a Dream" ends the episode with a stunningly beautiful reprise of a part of "Luna's Theme" as Sweetie says that she got the idea for the dolphin "in a dream."

# LEAP OF FAITH

Flim and Flam return and are up to their usual shenanigans! This time, they're selling a magical elixir that can cure all ills. Applejack is skeptical, but when the tonic apparently gives Granny Smith a new lease on life, she isn't sure what is the truth. However, she finds out it is a sham (big surprise), but is only faced with a greater dilemma: let Granny continue to believe the tonic is working, or tell the truth and potentially devastate her.

## Flim Flam Miracle Curative Tonic

It's another Flim Flam song, and in a similar style to their previous song from Season 2. This one has a little more of a "carnival" vibe to it, fitting the different setting. Song orchestrator Steffan Andrews does a fantastic job weaving this "carnival" style into the backing track of the song. Switching things up a bit, this song has a slower and "emotional" bridge section to it before the chorus comes in. Speaking of that, this is one of the few songs as of late that utilizes a chorus, with the only other this season being "Pinkie the Party Planner" from "Pinkie Pride". It's great to hear more of these "crowd" songs—the music always takes on a sudden grand feeling when the chorus joins in—not to mention it fits the "herd" mentality that the writer is trying to convey as happening here. On a different note: at first it almost sounds like the crowd is chanting "cider" again at first right after that bridge... (this time, they're chanting "tonic.")

Episode writer Josh Haber along with Daniel Ingram delivered some fantastic lyrics and dialogue for this song. Listen closely to the lyrics and you'll hear fantastic lines like "It's just what the doctor ordered...I'm sure!" and the mildly threatening "You might slip and fall, break or sprain something here tonight." This song and entire sequence seem to be a sort-of homage to the song sequence "Passamaquaddy" from "Pete's Dragon". Look it up on YouTube and you'll see the similarities. On another note, this is one of the longest songs of the series. Depending on how you slice it, it's about the same length as "Find a Pet" and only slightly shorter than the current longest song, the Flim Flam Bros.' previous "The Super Speedy Cider Squeezy 6000".

# LEAP OF FAITH

## Score

The episode begins with a Granny Smith flashback scene, complete with some fantastic old-timey BGM in "Aqua-Pony All-Star". Suddenly, a bunch of sick and injured ponies pass by, who seem to be migrating towards some circus music. "Entrance of the Charlatans" provides some nice classic carousel organ music for this scene.

Later in the episode, Applejack returns to Flim & Flam's tent and finds (and chases after) a pony named Silver Shill. During the track of the same name, we get some fantastic and new chase music. Once Applejack goes inside to confront Flim & Flam, a theme for them is introduced—one which will be used a few other times over the course of the episode. It's a simple piano theme, which manages to fit them very well.

The opening part to the track "The Ponyville Swim Meet" is fun and face-paced. This motif will be reused for "The Aerial Relay" in the future episode "Equestria Games". This is followed by the beautiful new track "Synchronized Apples". The woodwind and glockenspiel arpeggios during the middle section of the track are definitely the most fantastic part.

The title track "Leap of Faith" starts out with some more wonderful Flim Flam ragtime music, which we get a little more of as Apple Bloom begins promoting their tonics. From there, the track really takes off into "action-scene" territory as Applejack races to stop Granny Smith from going off the high-dive.

Next, the track "Honesty is the Key" brings us the next entry in the "...is the Key" BGM series. Here the "Six Locks...Six Keys" theme is reprised for one last time until the finale. William Anderson did a fantastic job utilizing this theme to help tie together all of the key episodes this season—its great having a reoccurring theme which has some solid meaning behind it!

# TESTING, TESTING, 1, 2, 3

In "Testing, Testing, 1, 2, 3" Rainbow Dash is set to join the Wonderbolts Reserves, but she must first pass a test on their history. But learning appears to be so un-Rainbow! Twilight and the rest of her friends must quickly find a way to aid Rainbow in learning all of the mundane details of the Wonderbolts' history to help her pass!

## The Rappin' Hist'ry of the Wonderbolts

Pinkie Pie tries to help teach Rainbow Dash the Wonderbolts' history the only way she knows how: an early-90s educational rap video! This is something we never, ever thought we'd see from Friendship is Magic. Maybe Equestria Girls...but not the main series! However, Amy Keating Rogers and composer William Anderson pull it off nicely by making it a 4th wall breaking music video with Pinkie.

And yeah—here we have the rare occasion of William Anderson providing the backing track for a song instead of Daniel Ingram, and he does a fantastic job. Andrea Libman also does a commendable job rapping as Pinkie here, making a totally adorable rapper.

The animation and production on this scene is also hilarious—complete with a VHS tape filter, cheese early-90s backgrounds, VHS-distorted audio, and a 4:3 aspect ratio! Have to also give kudos for season directors Jayson Thiessen and "Big" Jim Miller for provides the back up vocals for the rap.

# TESTING, TESTING, 1, 2, 3

## Score

William Anderson not only delivered an hilarious rap number in this episode, but really brought some wonderful new BGM to the table as well. In "The Inattentive March" he reprises the "Wonderbolts" theme which we've heard during "Rainbow Falls" this season, and originally in season 3's "Wonderbolts Academy." Here we have the added bonus of a creaking stool keeping the beat! After some more failed attempts at studying, Rainbow Dash and Twilight Sparkle begin to argue in "After Class Argument". This track ends with a callback to the "Magic of Friendship" theme which we've heard throughout the season, this time with more woodwinds to compliment Fluttershy's plea for friendship. As we go through each of the Mane 6's attempts of teaching Rainbow, we start out with the hilarious score for Fluttershy's pets play "The Not-Ready-For-Primetime Pets". Rarity takes over in "An Historical Adventure in Fashion" with some high-class string themes.

"Rainbow's Way" begins with some emotional woodwind, xylophone, and choir as Rainbow Dash flies away. We also get a nice mix of woodwinds and guitar as Rainbow is explaining what happens when she flies to Twilight. The small emotional piece when Twilight is beginning to explain the situation to the rest of the group is a really nice, small one. The track "What Do You Remember?" follows this in which we get another reprise of the "Magic of Friendship" theme which ends triumphantly as Rainbow Dash recalls more and more. This transitions into a fantastic oboe theme that's one of those repeating melodies which goes through a few emotional states thanks to the backing chords.

The original track "Learning Differently" is all sorts of amazing, and it's definitely one of the more "beautiful" tracks from the series. It has a "season 1" feel to it, using more simple instruments such as a piano and glockenspiel, adding some strings in as we go along, leading up to a fantastic emotional climax with a crescendo and some percussion. Mixed with the amazing visuals on screen, this piece helps lead to a great emotional peak scene for the episode.

# TRADE YA!

In "Trade Ya!", the Mane 6 return to Rainbow Falls to visit the Trader's Exchange. As part of Twilight's new duties as a princess in Equestria, it is her turn to oversee the exchange and make sure that all trades are fair. The rest of the crew, including Spike, go there in hopes of trading some of their possessions for things which they long for. In the end, however, they all learn that their most valuable possession is their friendship!

## Score

We begin the episode with a reprise of the "Rainbow Falls" theme which last appeared in the episode of the same name. Later in the episode, Pinkie Pie channels her inner-Flim Flam in the tracks "Authentic Princess Merchandise" and "Double Princess!". The bouncy upbeat score is very reminiscent to that of Flim and Flam's in previous episodes, complete with some fun slide whistle. "...At What Cost?" begins with some lovely Fluttershy woodwind music as she works her animal magic. The track takes an emotional turn as the stakes for the trade are given, and even more so once Rainbow Dash realizes what she's done. Pinkie inadvertently helps Twilight discover the meaning many of the book she is trying to sell have to her in the track "Princess Twilight's Princess Books". This track has some lovely parts to it, ending with a beautiful emotional theme.

The best and most emotional track of the episode, "Not a Fair Trade", starts out with a reprise of the end of the fantastic track "It Doesn't Feel Right" from the season 4 opener "Princess Twilight Sparkle." This time we get a slightly extended version of the theme. Parts of this track are also interspersed with variations on a theme from the first part of that same track from "Princess Twilight Sparkle" when the Mane 6 were all looking at Twilight's new stained glass window. The track ends with a short little victory march. The final track, "Trading the Magic of Friendship", starts with a slightly-altered version of one of the main "lesson" themes—this one is usually used for Applejack with a banjo. And what better theme to end on than an emotional reprise of the wonderful "Magic of Friendship" theme!

# EQUESTRIA GAMES

After being formally introduced in the last regular episode of season 3 (mentioned the episode before that), we finally see the Equestria Games in the last regular episode of season 4! Preparations for the games have been one of the key arcs to this season, and so it's great to see that arc finally come to a conclusion. And while the majority of the episode focused on Spike overcoming his failure at lighting the torch, we still got to see a good portion of the games, including the conclusions of everything which the episodes this season were leading up to.

## The Cloudsdale Anthem

"The Cloudsdale Anthem" is probably the most cringe-worthy, hilarious, and unexpected thing to come out of this episode. Spike, trying to make up for his failure of lighting the torch, forcibly volunteers himself to sing the anthem after the areal relay. However, he fails to realize that the anthem sung is for the winning team, and the Cloudsdale team won the gold! ...And he doesn't know their anthem. He can't back out of it by the time he finds out, and so he ad-libs some hysterical lyrics and melodies in their place.

There's great work all around on this track, from Dave Polksi's writing, to Cathy Weseluck's absolutely spot-on delivery, to William Anderson's actually really fantastic, patriotic, and fitting score for Cloudsdale's anthem. While the lyrics here are hilarious, the instrumental of this song, as opposed to Spike's failure, is actually superb! William Anderson has given the backing tracks to quite a few smaller songs this season—very reminiscent of season 1.

# EQUESTRIA GAMES

## Score

William Anderson's score to this episode was fantastic, reprising many of the Equestria Games and Crystal Empire themes, and a few others from season 4, while also introducing some new tracks specifically for the games. As the Mane 6 and Spike arrive in the Crystal Empire, we learn that the latter is a hero there after his actions in season 3's opener, "The Crystal Empire". In the track "Great and Honorable, Spike the Brave and Glorious", we get the wonderful return of the grand Crystal Empire BGM.

"Equestria Games Fanfare" brings us a theme for the games, reminiscent of the theme for the actual Olympic games. The "Ponyville Forever" theme returns for a brief moment as the Cutie Mark Crusaders perform their routine in "Equestria: We Have a Problem". The Equestria Games motif will continue to be used here and throughout the rest of the episode.

"The Secret Spell" reprises the "Sisters" theme, which was used throughout season 3's "Sleepless in Ponyville", as the CMC are congratulated by their sisters for a great performance. This was a great choice of score to reprise here, and of course it was fun to see some more Scootaloo/Rainbow Dash sisterly bonding. "The Aerial Relay" begins with the "Equestria Games Fanfare" as the event is announced. During the competition, we get an action-y theme which was last used in the track "The Ponyville Swim Meet" during the episode "Leap of Faith". This theme was also most notably used in the Season 3 premier two-parter "The Crystal Empire" as Twilight is upside-down skating up the stairs.

In the episode's highlight track, "Fire and Ice", we get an awesome and original action theme as the pegasi all fly in to try and stop the giant ice rock, eventually aided by Spike. Parts of this have a nice "Dark Knight" soundtrack vibe. This is followed by another original motif, this one for Spike as he still remains somber about his earlier failures. The episode closes with a reprise of the theme from the track "Learning Differently" from the episode "Testing, Testing, 1, 2, 3".

# Twilight's Kingdom

Princess Twilight Sparkle feels unsure about what her new role means, and what she is meant to do. Sure, she's a Princess of Equestria, but it just feels like all that means for her is to smile and wave. When the princesses are alerted to the evil Lord Tirek's escape from Tartarus, they send Discord to stop him, leaving Twilight even more unsure as to her place. But when Discord is swayed by Tirek to betray the ponies, it's up to Twilight to save the day.

## You'll Play Your Part

"You'll Play Your Part" begins with some singing from Twilight (her first singing role this season) as she explains how she feels. Complementing a great tune here is some fantastic acoustic guitar, quickly adding some strings and glockenspiel in the background. The song continues to build and add more instruments as Twilight sings, including more percussion, woodwinds, and choir.

After the second verse, Celestia joins in, singing for the second time since last season's finale, and Nicole Oliver's voice is just as amazing as ever. The backing track here resembles "Celestia's Ballad" from season 3's finale quite a bit. Next, Luna receives her first-ever singing part in the series, and who better to sing for her than Rarity's singing voice Kazumi Evans. Evans does a superb job here differentiating this singing from Rarity's, which is not easy. Cadance joins in, singing for the first time since season 2's "A Canterlot Wedding." The backing track builds adding the full orchestra in by the time we get to the chorus.

And the chorus! These harmonies are simply God-like. The three singers here just nail it. The backing track perfectly adjusts, adding a moving yet upbeat rhythm to the song. Britt McKillip's part in the second bridge is absolutely beautiful. Daniel Ingram and orchestrator Stefan Andrews somehow manage to top the first chorus by adding much emotion to it via a key change and some great brass to it's second iteration. The final chorus is tear-inducing, it is extremely emotionally strong.

# Twilight's Kingdom

## Let the Rainbow Remind You

And now here's the second and final song from the two-part season finale! This is a fun, upbeat song which is a perfect way to end the episode and season, much like "Love is in Bloom" from season 2's finale.

We start out with a rocking' mandolin part, leading into solos from Twilight and Fluttershy, and then into a fantastic harmony-filled bridge and chorus. This song has some fantastic backing vocals, utilizing them to emphasize words and beats during the verses. During the chorus, the backing vocalists' delayed "rainbow remind you" adds a lot to the style of the song, as well as to its catchy nature.

This song also has a great backing beat and horn parts. What starts out upbeat, but still fairly simple, blossoms into a large horn-filled theme by the chorus.

Probably the best part about this song is the scene that appears with it, and how the song and animation work together. During the chorus, we get to see all of the key-givers from the key episodes this season, including Coco, Spitfire, Cheese Sandwich, The Breezies, Silver Shill, and Discord. The way this is presented, in conjunction with this song, was amazing, and really exuded tons of emotion. It was a really great way to end the season.

On another note, this song definitely sounds like it's been cut for time, so an extended version likely exists. Look for that to probably be on the next official Friendship is Magic soundtrack!

# Twilight's Kingdom

## Score

"Twilight's Kingdom" contains some of William Anderson's best work on the series. It was going to be hard for him to top the season 4 premiere, but he delivered and then some. Not only did he hit on all of the reoccurring themes throughout the season, but he "plussed" them so much it was amazing.

As we start in the Crystal Empire with the track "Smile and Wave", we get some classic Crystal Empire BGM, followed by a soft, somber reprise of a theme we heard at the beginning of part 1 of "Princess Twilight Sparkle" in the season 4 opener, when the Mane 6 are looking at Twilight's new stained glass window. This is a great use of this theme here, as in the season opener when it was first used, the scene also involved Twilight's discussing her concerns about her new title with her friends. The score shifts to a big fanfare as the royalty for other lands arrive.

"Why Am I Here?" begins with a march as the dignitaries leave the meeting. Next, as Twilight begins explaining her concerns to the other three princesses, we get a very somber reprise of the theme which just appeared in the previous track, which originally appeared in the season 4 opener "Princess Twilight Sparkle." As Cadance tries to console Twilight, we get the reprise of another season 4 theme, this one a somber clarinet one. It first appeared in the episode "Maud Pie" in the track "Maud Saves Pinkie," and appeared again in "Inspiration Manifestation" as Spike finally tells the truth to Rarity about what she had become.

Coming off the show-stopping "You'll Play Your Part", William Anderson impresses with an amazing emotional score to end the scene, which fits in so perfectly with the song it follows. This quickly transforms into a sinister feeling as we are introduced to this two-parter's main villain-Tirek! What starts out as a tense atmospheric piece of BGM, quickly turns into an intense fast-paced track with heavy percussion and blaring horns.

# Twilight's Kingdom

As Celestia wakes up from the vision and discusses it with Luna, we get a reprise of an unexpected theme: the "These Six Friends" theme which was Season 2's main musical motif, most notable for appearing in the credits of season 2's opener and finale. This version of it, however, is of course really sinister, and you might not recognize it at first.

Through the storybook, which was first seen at the very, very beginning of the series, we learn the tale of Tirek and his brother Scorpan during the track "Tirek and Scorpan". As we enter the book, the score remains soft and atmospheric, yet still tense and foreboding. As Twilight and the other princesses talk about Tirek, we get a short sinister reprise of the "These Six Friends" motif from season 2. As Twilight begins to think that Celestia is going to send her on this mission, William Anderson reprises the "Princess Twilight Sparkle" motif from the end of season 4's opener. This theme appears in the "Summer Sun Celebration" track, directly after the fanfare as Twilight is creating her magic-twiboom. It appears first as some staccato woodwinds, and develops into a full orchestral piece by the time the theme in this track arrives. This will serve as one of the main motifs for the episode.

In "Back to the Castle", we have a brief and grand reprise of one of this season's main themes: "The Magic of Friendship" as the Mane 6 talk about the elements. After Discord gloats to the Mane 6 about his new task, he eventually faces off against Tirek. The track "Tirek and Discord" starts out very powerful as Tirek runs through Equestria stealing ponies' magic. We have an interesting back-and-forth in the BGM here as we cycle between the dark and evil Tirek, and the chaos-loving, but fun and humorous Discord.

In "The Tough Choices You've Made", we get a simple reprise of the beginning of the "Magic of Friendship" theme. As we get flashbacks to the different key reveals, the "Six Locks, Six Keys" motif is reprised. This is followed by a simple theme which actually appeared last in season 4's opener "Princess Twilight Sparkle" when Twilight and Celestia are conversing. From there, the track takes on a new life of its own, and builds up more and more emotionally, ending in an absolutely beautiful new piano and strings theme.

# Twilight's Kingdom

As five of the keys are reaved, the track "Keys Revealed / The Sacrifice" starts with a magnificent version of the "Six Locks, Six Keys" motif as the Mane 6 put the 5 keys into the chest. When Twilight receives a letter from Princess Celestia, who informs her of some grave news with one grave solution, the BGM here returns to the intense Tirek-style of before. During this, we get a couple more off-key reprises of "These Six Friends," from season 2 as part 1 of "Twilight's Kingdom" comes to a close.

"Twilight's Kingdom, part 2" begins with "Transfer of Power" and another short reprise of the "These Six Friends" theme. The score then shifts to a new theme, which actually seems to be based off of the track "Celestia Lament" from Season 4's opener "Princess Twilight Sparkle." This fits really well, since Celestia is most definitely sorrowful about what the princesses must do.

As Celestia tells Twilight that she cannot inform her friends of this, the score shifts to a soft piano-driven theme, which has a short flute reprise of the "Magic of Friendship" theme which has been a cornerstone this season for any scene dealing with friendship. From there, as the princesses transfer their power to Twilight, we get a motif based on one that we usually hear for when the Mane 6 are summoning Discord.

Tirek's theme returns in "Tirek and The Princesses" as he confronts the three alicorns, and again in the following track "Discord's Betrayal".

"Tirek Battle Suite", both in the scene and its accompanying score, is really unlike anything we've seen or heard from the show thus far. The score here is great, and fits the battle perfectly, following the highs and lows for Twilight.

The battle suite also incorporates a few of the musical motifs we've heard from the episode so far into it, albeit quite well hidden in the action-packed track.

# Twilight's Kingdom

"Friendship is the Key" is by far this episode's magnum opus score-wise, and is the conclusion of the "...is the Key" BGM series.

This is this episode's, and possibly William Anderson's magnum opus because this track is just that good. As the rainbow shimmer shines across all of the Mane 5, Spike, and Discord's bubble prisons, and Twilight's eyes rainbow-gleam, we get a choir-driven motif which is based off of the "Six Locks, Six Keys" theme, which has appeared during the similar scenes in every key episode this season. Here it's a little different and more epic to compliment the weight of what is happening in Twilight's mind as she puts the situation together.

Next, we get an absolutely beautiful string ensemble theme as Twilight reunites with her friends, and receives a gift from Discord, complete with another majestic reprise of the "keys" motif. The score becomes more monumental as they return to the Tree of Harmony and the chest, and becomes more tense as Tirek approaches.

And here's something we haven't heard for a while—a full-on epic orchestration of the My Little Pony theme. Making that theme sound this magnificent is no easy feat, and William Anderson accomplishes it brilliantly. This is something we heard a lot of in the season 1 premiere, but not much since, and having it reprised here beautifully ties the entire series together.

The score then shifts to a reprise of one of the main themes of the season, which we've heard in this two-parter before, "Princess Twilight's Theme." Here it appears in an amazing extended form from its original incarnation, as Twilight and the rest of the Mane 6 travel with their Rainbow Power undoing the damaging Tirek has caused on Equestria. As Twilight's castle is revealed, we get a short reprise of another motif from this season.

# Twilight's Kingdom

Our next track, "The Princess of Friendship" starts out with a majestic score which is loosely based off of one of the season's main themes, the "Passing the Test" motif which originally appeared in Season 3's opener "The Crystal Empire," as Celestia informs Twilight she passed the test. This theme appeared again in Season 4's opener as Twilight reunited the elements with the Tree of Harmony, and Princesses Celestia and Luna were freed from the vine's clutches. It may be hard to recognize the theme at first, but if you listen closely you'll hear it (the final two notes of this part give it away). This is a great theme to bring up again here, since this scene once again involves Twilight "passing" some sort of "test," in this case not only defeating Tirek, but more importantly realizing who she is supposed to be as a princess and leader of Equestria.

The score then brings up the next big theme from this season, one which has appeared in many, many episodes: The "Magic of Friendship" theme! After first appearing in Season's 3's "Magic Duel" and "Keep Calm and Flutter On," and then at the end of "Equestria Girls," the theme has really been given life in season 4, appearing numerous times throughout the season during scenes dealing with friendship. It seems only fitting that this theme is reprised here as Twilight realizes that she is the Princess of Friendship, and what her calling is as that.

William Anderson closes out his amazing score for this episode with a reprise of one of the season opener and finale's key themes for the credits: the "Princess Twilight Sparkle" theme. It's been a while since a two-parter has had it's own closing BGM, with the last one being "A Canterlot Wedding". Much like the credits from that episode, Twilight's Kingdom's credits utilizes a key theme from throughout the season, this one representing Twilight and her new status. It's a beautiful theme to end the season on, right up to the awe-inspiring final chord.

William Anderson & Daniel Ingram have been delivering time & time again this season, and the finale is some of their best work. Here's to looking forward to season 5 & the music it will bring!

# SOUNDTRACK CREDITS



## Music

Daniel Ingram

## Score

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Daniel Ingram

Steffan Andrews

## Orchestrations and Arrangements

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Steffan Andrews

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