Season 5 Original Soundtrack



Songs by Daniel Ingram

Score by William Anderson



Annotated Score for the Season 5 soundtrack of My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic

To compliment the Season 5 song, instrumental, and BGM rip collection by RainShadow

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Soundtrack Outline

Disc 1

Songs

Disc 2

The complete Season 5 score

Disc 3

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

* Discs 1 & 3 are grouped in one download, and Disc 2 separately

Season 5 Overview

Just when you thought your hiatuses couldn't become any longer, Season 5 presents itself with a year-long wait. However, that patience was rewarded with possibly the most diverse, different, and expansive season to date for My Little Pony, expanding greatly on the world, its characters, and its storytelling.

We are introduced right away to the season's main villain, who in a new course for the series, escapes at the end of the two-parter, rather than captured or defeated. While Season 4 presented more of an overarching storyline, Season 5 went with an overarching theme: Cutie Marks and their magic and power. This overall theme tied into numerous episodes throughout the season, including the finale, and multiple Cutie Mark Crusader episodes all leading up to an unexpected event: the trio finally discovering their marks.

Besides the overarching theme, the season also utilize the brand new Cutie Map, revealed in the premiere, to allow the Mane 6 to explore new lands and friends in and outside of Equestria, as well as expand upon themselves. But this was not just a season of expanse and the unknown, but also one of the familiar. Multiple characters from past seasons make reappearances throughout, and situations from as far back as the original season are revisited from a new light (see the fantastic "Amending Fences").

Change was also present on the other side of the fourth wall. With the series expanding both with more Equestria Girls and the newly announced feature-length film, many of the creative team found themselves in new roles with more exciting challenges. Fan-favorite M.A. Larson returned to the series after a season-long absence to assist Meghan McCarthy with story editing duties as she transitioned to writing the feature. Denny Lu stepped into the directors' chair alongside Jim Miller as Jayson Thiessen said farewell to the series to work exclusively on the movie. Rebecca Dart stepped up as the new art director for the show, while others such as storyboard artist Sibsy bid farewell (after working on some Season 6 episodes as well). New writers were also abound, with a sizable chunk of episode being written by brand-new-to-the-

series authors. More than half of the episode were penned by writers that were brought on during seasons 4 and 5, allowing for new fresh stories and perspectives to abound.

Music-wise the show retained its superb soundtrack, both in the songs and score. Songwriter Daniel Ingram and score composer William Anderson continued to impress, lending us 21 songs and 260 tracks of background music. Long-time series song orchestrator Steffan Andrews departed for this season, but with big shoes to fill Caleb Chan, who also helped produce songs on "Rainbow Rocks" and "Friendship Games," stepped in and delivered some of the best backing tracks of the series (see: "We'll Make Our Mark" from "Crusaders of the Lost Mark"). This season also brought a wide-variety of musical stylings, and many firsts, including the amazing Rainbow Dash solo song "I'll Fly," to the propaganda-filled march of "Our Town," to the absolutely jaw-dropped performance by Lena Hall on "The Magic Inside."

William Anderson meanwhile continues to provide this little show about small, colorful equines with a score on-par with anything else on television. Through the continued use of meaningful motifs, to the ability to conquer countless genres, Anderson and Kelly Davidson deliver a soundtrack that is just as wonderful to listen to on its own. New themes greet us throughout the season, from Starlight Glimmer's brilliantly innocent, yet somehow devious motif, to multiple tracks revolving around the Cutie Map, to countless absolutely beautiful tracks littered throughout the season. In addition to the much-used "Magic of Friendship" motif, numerous themes make comebacks from previous seasons, including the sunning reorchestration of "Luna's Theme" throughout "Do Princesses Dream of Magic Sheep," to motifs representing all of the two-parter villains so far making appearances in the fantastic time-travel-filled finale.

It would be possible to continue to ramble about the season overall here, but instead, let us dive into each episode and its BGM!

The Cutie Map

Twilight Sparkle and the rest of the Mane 6 are adapting to her new Castle home in Ponyville. But the excitement quickly mounts as a new and mysterious map of Equestria appears in front of them, and calls them to an unknown village on the far edge. Unsure of what to expect, the group makes the trek out to the location, only to find a seemingly simple town with an overly-friendly populous. However, the Mane 6 quickly suspect that something is wrong with both the townspeople and their leader Starlight Glimmer.

Score

We begin the episode and season with a new theme that incorporates a motif from the Season 4 opener's track "Saving Twilight & The Tree," from directly before Twilight returns the elements to the Tree of Harmony. This motif also bears similarity to "Princess Twilight Sparkle's Theme". The track progresses into a new theme for the series, which will reprised throughout the episode. As Twilight is questioning the existence of the castle, we get a slightly down-trotten rendition of "Princess Twilight Sparkle's Theme" before the Cutie Map reveals itself with a nice choir.

After the intro, we continue the episode with a reprise of a fantastic motif, which first appeared in the season 4 finale track "Friendship is the Key" when Discord gave Twilight what would become her key. The Mane 6 begin to talk about what has occurred, backed by a new piece of score that sounds like something from a Zelda game!

The Mane 6 then board a train to the mysterious town, and are greeted with our first reprise of the motif from "The Call of the Cutie." This particular motif is reused in the other map-related episodes during their travel sequences. As the girls approach the town, an epic rendition of "Princess Twilight Sparkle's Theme" is used.

The Mane 6 begin to explore this mysterious village and interact with the inhabitants. Here we are greeted with the "Our Town / Starlight Glimmer" motif, as seemingly innocent woodwind-driven piece that becomes more off-putting as the episode progresses and we learn more about the town. Besides multiple appearances in the two-part opener, it also is reprised for Starlight Glimmer's return in the season finale, "The Cutie-Remark." Starlight's version of the theme is usually in a minor key, giving it that ominous feeling.

Multiple instances of "Princess Twilight Sparkle's Theme" are used as we continue through the episode, as it competes with Starlight's theme for screen time. This leads to a very powerful version of Starlight's motif to end the first half of the two-parter.

As expected, numerous pieces of score from this episode are used throughout the season, particularly the episodes which deal with the Cutie Map. This is something that was utilized strongly during season 4's arc, and is great to see used again here.

One of the highlight themes from the episode is most certainly "Cutie Mark Magic." It first appears in the track "Cutie Marks Recovered Suite" as the town residents claim their cutie marks back from Starlight. This is one of the more complex compositions that we've heard from the series so far. We can hear it again during the episode's credits in its pristine glory. As the "Cutie Marks Recovered Suite" continues, the score becomes more and more heroic, with some fantastic renditions of both the "Our Town / Starlight Glimmer" and "Princess Twilight Sparkle's" themes.

A final season motif makes its first appearance in "Our Work Here is Done." This theme is meant to accompany the Mane 6's cutie marks glowing when they finish the task the map sent them to accomplish. It will also make appearances at the ends of the other map episodes this season.



"Our Town"

While season 4's two-part opener was song-less, we begin season 5 with a song right in the first episode. "Our Town" is an extremely different piece of music from anything we've heard from the series thus far, and most certainly has some much darker undertones in both its score and lyrics. The song itself is a propaganda-style march (or even a sort-of national anthem) that wouldn't sound out-of-place in Communist Russia.

The lyrics have a subtle darkness to them that is very off-putting, especially for My Little Pony. This is especially prominent in lines such as "You can't have a nightmare, if you never dream." Mixed with the visuals on screen, this is one of the best song sequences in the series in terms of story-telling, lyrics, and feeling. Plus, the full marching band orchestration for this song is rather enjoyable to listen to on its own.



"In Our Town"



Heads high, ponies! Marching proud!
All together now! Every one of you!
No pony left behind!

Life is so grand in Our Town
We're always filled with cheer
We never have to look around
To know that we're all here

In Our Town, in Our Town
We don't have to wait
To find out that our destiny
Is just to emulate

Let's see those big, happy smiles!

Life is a smile in Our Town
Our cutie mark's the same
Because we do not separate
Ourselves by more than name

In Our Town, in Our Town
We dare not compete
Winning only breeds the worst
Ego-filled conceit

You see? Now everypony wins!
Life is a joy in Our Town
We're all equal here
No one is superior
And no one shakes in fear

In Our Town, in Our Town
We work as a team
You can't have a nightmare
If you never dream

Other ponies argue
Do you ever wonder why?
When you think your talent's special
You don't see eye-to-eye

There's just too many differences
That lead to disarray
But when you learn to act as one
It's like a holiday

In Our Town, in Our Town
We don't complicate
When you learn to simplify
Life is oh, so great

Join in our utopia
Come out of the dark
Banded by equality
By our cutie mark

Castle Sweet Castle

Season 5 doesn't waste any time skirting the big questions, namely here "what does Twilight Sparkle do now, and how does she feel after losing her tree home last season?" In an emotion-filled episode from new writers Joanna Lewis and Kristine Songco, Twilight struggles adapting to her new castle. We are presented with some amazing stirring scenes for both the Princess of Friendship and her assistant Spike as they deal with their loss. How will the rest of the Mane 6 make the castle feel like home?

Score

"Castle Sweet Castle" has one of the best and most emotional reuses of a motif this season, and quite possibly the series. Making its first appearance this episode in the track "Pancake Breakfast" the Golden Oaks Library motif is a classic theme from the first two seasons of the show, which has been used extensively for scenes in the Ponyville library. It's both fantastic and sad to hear the motif used throughout the episode, and William Anderson takes it through many incarnations, from happy to sad to extremely emotional. You must appreciate all of the ways the theme is so masterfully weaved into this episode's score throughout the entirety. It brings back fond memories of those earlier seasons for the viewer as well, allowing them to share in Twilight's sorrow for her old home.

This all builds to one of the best tracks of the season, "The Chandelier of Memories," where the rest of the Mane 6 show Twilight what they have built for her. This track begins with the Golden Oaks library motif, and quickly builds into a beautiful new theme based on it as we see the Chandelier.

"Make This Castle a Home"

The season continues strong song-wise with a second song (and reprise) in just the second episode. After a song in the premiere that tread new ground for the series' songs, "Make This Castle a Home" exemplifies a quintessential Friendship is Magic song. From the guitars, to the amazing orchestration, to the trademark mandolin, this song is an instant classic; it holds all the standards of this series' music. Each pony receives a solo in the song, which all lead up to some fantastic harmonies as they all join in together. The bridge is an especially powerfully part of the song, driven with heavy percussion behind the vocals.

Caleb Chan's orchestration meshes nicely with David Corman's guitar and mandolin parts. The prominent mandolin here harks back to season 3's "The Ballad of the Crystal Empire" in its opener.

And if two songs already this season were not enough, this song is paired with a reprise later in the episode. The reprise allows one more verse and chorus as the Mane 6 realize what really makes a home a home. The orchestration is even more grand in this second outing, adding much additional emotion to the scene. It quickly builds throughout the song, all leading up to a wonderful string drop before the final chorus. As the chorus continues, more brass and strings are brought in, climaxing in a powerful final chord and crescendo.



"Make This Castle a Home"

Let's all work together
To make this castle shi-i-ine
Once we add some sparkle
It'll feel, it'll feel, it'll feel
It'll feel divine

Crates of apples an' bales o' hay
Just makes ya feel at home
Furry friends and some popinjays
So she won't be alone

And we'll make
And we'll make
And we'll make
This castle a home

There's nothing like balloons
and confetti
To greet you every time you
walk through the door
She'll need this and those
Posters of all my heroes
How could anypony awesome
ever ask for more?

And we'll make
And we'll make
And we'll make
A home she'll adore

Bright curtains of flowing silk and lace
This picture of me winning a race
Party cannons to give her a surprise
Hoes and rakes and some
more garden supplies

Getting hugs from this nice,
big, friendly bear
Decorate with some gemstones
bright and rare
More of this and that
Don't forget the party hats
How could anypony awesome
ask for more than that?

Let's all work together
To show that we have shown
Princess Twilight Sparkle

How we make
How we make
How we make
This castle a home

How we make
How we make
This castle a home

How we make
How we make
This castle a home

"Make This Castle a Home (Reprise)"

It's not the things
that ya gather 'round
It's not how much you own
The things that hold
the meaning in your life
Are the memories you've sown

So we make
So we make
So we make
This castle a home

So we make
So we make
This castle a home

So we make
So we make
This castle a home

Bloom and Gloom

Apple Bloom is once again worrying about her Cutie Mark, but not necessarily how she's going to find hers. She's worried about what will happen when she does finally get one; how will it impact her friendships, her family, her life? Over-worrying causes her to drift into multiple nightmares, each more crazy and frightening than the last. Who will be able to help her conquer her nightmares and fears?

Score

After three seasons, we finally reach our final episode of the Luna/CMC trilogy episode arc. Beginning all the way back in season 3 with Scootaloo and "Sleepless in Ponyville," this was an interesting layout of an arc, with each of the three episodes taking place once a season for three seasons. After helping Scootaloo in season 3, Luna helps Rarity's younger sibling deal with her nightmares in season 4's "For Whom the Sweetie Belle Toils," and now Apple Bloom here in season 5's "Bloom and Gloom."

One of the most interesting aspects of this trilogy of episodes is how the episodes are tied together narratively, thematically, as well as musically. Looking back through all three episodes, you will notice the same few motifs appearing a few times in each, during similar situations. The first of these themes that we encounter is a spooky theme that was first heard in Sleepless' "Silly Sleep," here in the tracks "Cutie Mark Eraser" and "Crusaders Only." This score also made an appearance in "...Toils."

The most prominent of all of the motifs in these episodes is most certainly "Luna's Theme," which made its first appearance of the series in "Sleepless..." Probably one of the most recognizable themes for the series, this woodwind-driven score has made appearances not only in all three Luna / CMC episodes as the Princess of the Night reveals herself, but also in season 4's "Princess Twilight Sparkle" during the flashback sequences, and more prominently later this

season in "Do Princesses Dream of Magic Sheep?". It is most certainly one of the best motifs of the series. After Luna's theme ends, another motif "The Dreamscape" also makes an appearance after being introduced in "...Toils."

A few other motifs from past episodes also make appearances throughout, including "A Minutes Rest" in the first track. This theme initially appeared in another Apple family episode, "Apple Family Reunion," and has been used for episodes involving the family ever since. In this episode, it is even used in the same context as in "...Reunion": Apple Bloom going to sleep.

Another reprised motif is from even further back: the score from "Not a Claw Spike" from season 3's "The Crystal Empire" makes an appearance at the end of the track "Twittermite Invasion."

Finally, the episode ends with a new piece of score for the CMC that is very reminiscent of their classic scores from the first season of the show.



"Hush Now, Little Sister"

A short song sung by Applejack, "Hush Now..." is one of the rare times William Anderson gets to write the backing track for a song. This simple, yet moving lullaby is beautifully sung by Ashleigh Ball, who delivers a tender, sweet performance as Applejack, and also ad-libbed the melody for the song. This is one of the more powerful, lovely, and simple songs of the series, but pack a strong emotional punch. It is backed with a music box lullaby-style backing track that builds nicely with strings at the end, and even has a short reprise!





"Hush Now, Little Sister"

Hush now, little sister
You're loved by all you know
You'll never lose their friendship
No matter where you go

There ain't no call to worry
So don't you cry or fret
A cutie mark won't change you
No matter what you get

Tanks for the Memories

In an episode with one of the more weighty morals of the series, Rainbow Dash must cope with the feeling of loss. Winter is coming, and her pet tortoise Tank is preparing to hibernate. This distresses Rainbow, who was excited to spend her first winter together with her pet. Now she must come to grips with losing her friend (for a bit).

Score

Rainbow Dash, as always, brings the guitars and rock to the backing score of this episode, but unexpectedly brings some heavy emotion as well. The episode begins with a few reprised motifs, including one of the running of the leaves motifs in "'Don't Say That Word!'" as well as numerous appearances of one of the Cloudsdale themes. As Rainbow Dash tries to stop winter from coming at the source in "Sabotage," a homage to the "Mission Impossible" theme is used.

In "Let it All Out," while Fluttershy and the rest of the Mane 6 try to console Rainbow Dash, a short, off-key version of the "Magic of Friendship" motif is heard. Later in the scene we hear a theme that was used in "Testing, Testing, 1, 2, 3" during the beginning of the track "Rainbow's Way." "'I'm Sure Gonna Miss You'" brings the feels with a reprise of a wonderful theme from Season 4. It appeared first in the episode "Maud Pie" during the track "Maud Saves Pinkie". We've heard this track since then in the episodes "Inspiration Manifestation" and "Twilight's Kingdom". The episode ends on a very emotional and somber track. It hits all of the right emotional notes for the scene. The final cords that take us out of the episode pack an especially heavy punch. While they end very positive, there is one minor chord mixed in that exemplifies the feeling that we've gone through during the episode.

"I'll Fly"

This is what many people have been looking forward to for quite some time: Rainbow Dash's first solo song. She had a duet with Fluttershy, and of course an awesome song in Rainbow Rocks, but this is her first true song all to herself in the main series. And does it deliver!

The song is a little more pop-rock than we are used to in the main series, but thanks to some fantastic orchestration by Caleb Chan, the track feels more like something out of a modern musical, such as "Wicked". This helps the song feel more at home in Friendship is Magic. The instrumental version is a must-listen, as this song's backing track, especially with the orchestration, is what makes it such an enjoyable piece. While the chorus is absolutely amazing, the bridge before it is quite possible just as enjoyable.

Ashleigh Ball returns for a second episode in a row with some fantastic singing as Rainbow Dash. The high notes she hits are just filled with so much emotion, and really help the scene and song stand out.

"I'll Fly"

When life gives you lemons
You can make lemonade
But life gave me Tank here
And my choice has long been made

No winter will come to Ponyville
I'll do it on my own
I will keep you by my side
So I will not be alone

And I'll fly
And I'll fly
Until the end of the sky
So I'll be the one who doesn't
Have to say goodbye

I'll clear the skies forever
So we won't be apart
I'll keep the weather warm for you
And the winter will never start

Weather-makers Pegasi
You make the seasons in the sky
I don't want to sabotage you
But you see, I've got to try

No winter can come here now
I'll keep the warmth
and the sun somehow
I'm sorry, ponies, this has to be
For I need my friend and he needs me

I know it's wrong
but what does it matter?
'Cause nothing's gonna stop me now
I'll change it all
it's only the weather
And nopony's gonna bring me down

I'll keep the sunlight shining free
And I'll bust the clouds apart
So you can stay with me

And I'll fly
And I'll fly
Until the end of the sky
So I'll be the one who doesn't
Have to say goodbye

I'll clear the skies forever
So we won't be apart
I'll keep the weather warm for you
And the winter will never start

Appleloosa's Most Wanted

During a visit to Appleloosa, Applejack must fill in for an injured Braeburn in the rodeo. But trouble is ahoof as it seems it might be interrupted by the troublesome outlaw Trouble Shoes. It's up to the CMC to try and figure out who Trouble Shoes really is, and what he wants.

Score

In our return to Appleloosa, western music abounds in the backing score. We start off with some new western compositions in the opening track "Appleloosa Rodeo," which ends with a short harmonica motif. Both of these themes will make appearances throughout the episode. "Trouble Shoes" brings electric guitars into the mix of western music with its slow, deliberate pace, and makes a reappearance in "'Generalized Mayhem.'"

More season 3 themes return in this episode, with the "Mirror Pool" motif reoccurring in "The Search for Trouble Shoes." This track appeared first in "Too Many Pinkie Pies."

Another style of western score is introduced at the beginning of "'Let's Ride!'", which showcases some player piano Saloon music. Once the CMC finally meet Trouble Shoes himself, we are introduced to his leitmotif in "A Series of Unfortunate Events," which heavily uses more harmonica, much like earlier in the episode. This motif is used throughout the rest of the episode in multiple tracks for Trouble Shoes, including the flashback score "Rodeo Star," where it is taken through multiple emotional styles. The episode ends with some rodeo clown music, and an emotional reprise of Trouble Shoes' motif.

Make New Friends but Keep Discord

It's time once again for the Grand Galloping Gala, and a newly-reformed Discord is looking forward to attending with Fluttershy. However, he quickly finds out that his friend has already invited another pony to go with her, Tree Hugger, assuming that Discord had already received his own invite. Despite learning that he did, Discord is hurt by this, and embarks to make Fluttershy feel the same betrayal that he felt.

Score

In our first Discord episode of the season, we are unsurprisingly greeted with multiple instances of our favorite Draconequus' musical themes, starting right in the first track. Everyone's favorite MLP G1 character, The Smooze, also makes his return in this episode, and is given a very slow and bass-heavy theme in his title track. This track also reprises Discord's more mischievous motif.

Another new character in this episode is Fluttershy's friend Tree Hugger. A quintessential hippy, she is given some fitting new age-style music. This motif is used for her throughout the episode and makes numerous other appearances.

During the episode's climax, we can hear a brief drop of the "Magic of Friendship" theme in the track "'I Overreacted Just a Slosh.'" The episode concludes with a lovely new track, which is renascent of the type of score heard back in seasons 1 & 2, complete with prominent electric guitar and xylophone.

The Lost Treasure of Griffonstone

In the second map episode of the season, Rainbow Dash and Pinkie Pie are called to the Griffon Kingdom to solve a friendship problem. While there, they quickly run into an old "friend," who is just as bitter as ever. Can the duo help this old friend, and the rest of the Griffons, discover friendship?

Score

The episode begins with a very upbeat track that fits Pinkie Pie to a T, before we dive into the meat of the episode's story. After the opening, Twilight Sparkle tells the history of the Griffon Kingdom to Rainbow and Pinkie, with a fantastic mythical score with some slavic influences utilized in the background. The use of the choir and woodwinds in this track is lovely. This theme is used again once the duo arrives at the Griffon Kingdom in "Griffonstone Friendship Ambassadors," as well as another backstory segment later in the track "The Lost Treasure of Griffonstone."

This track also represents our first reprise of one of the season 5 map arc motifs. This piano and woodwind-driven composition first appeared in this season's opener as the mane 6 were traveling by train to the location on the map, and appears here in the same context. The track also has a hilarious mocking version of "Princess Twilight Sparkle's Theme" as Rainbow Dash is impersonating her. Another season 5 motif makes an appearance in "Friendship in Griffonstone." This theme was first heard in the track "'Our Work Here is Done,'" and is used to signify the mission is complete. The episode ends with one of the best themes of the show, which first appeared in the season 4 finale track "Friendship is the Key," and again during the season 5 premiere in "The Call of the Cutie."

Slice of Life

In the show's historic 100th episode, the background characters take center stage as they all try to prepare for Cranky and Matilda's wedding, which due to a Derp, has been unexpectedly pushed forward.

Score

The 100th episode begins with some soothing score which subtley utilizes the MLP theme. After the intro, we are greeted with a scene with none other than Derpy and the Doctor himself, complete with a bouncy theme for the timey-wimey pony. This turns into a very grand orchestral part as he gives a speech about science. The episode continues as we are once again introduced to The Dude, complete with his fitting musical stylings for the parody. Lyra and Bon Bon then receive a chance at the spotlight, and are backed with a very classic-sounding MLP motif, with some soft piano and glockenspiel. Once Bon Bon realizes what beast is attacking the town, the score takes a sudden turn towards a spy-theme. However, this is a new spy theme, slightly different than ones we've heard in previous seasons.

During "Wedding Mingling," many of the themes used throughout the episode for the different characters are shortly reprised as they are featured in the scene. Near the end of this track, right before the ceremonies begin, a little drop of the season 2 wedding theme is used; a subtle throwback to A Canterlot Wedding.

The episode ends with a piece of score that harkens back to the classic lesson motifs of the early seasons of the show. As the Mane 6 look into the wedding from the outside (for once), one of the series' most prominent motifs makes a beautiful reappearance: "The Magic of Friendship" theme.

"Vinyl vs. Octavia"

While this technically may not be song, we're going to count it as one at least in terms of how this album is organized. It's the focus of the scene, isn't behind dialogue, is just a joy to listen to, and is almost 3 minutes long.

This is something which has been hinted at before, but now we finally get to hear it in all its glory: a dubstep / cello duet between Vinyl and Octavia. And William Anderson, with help from cellist Tina Guo, did not disappoint!

The track begins with Octavia playing some standard wedding songs on her Cello, before Vinyl steps in and attempts to spruce them up with some wubs. While not working at first, they both quickly find their groove, and give us one of the best and most unique things to come out of the series musically. And this isn't just a quick come and done musical number, it goes on through an entire "chase" scene.

Daniel Ingram took on dubstep in the Rainbow Rocks shorts, and here Anderson succeeds at doing the same. Tina's cello part is fantastic, and everything mixes so well. A fantastic work by both which takes this special to the next level!

Princess Spike

Princess Twilight Sparkle has been put in charge of organizing a large conference with delegates from all over Equestria. However, when the task begins to wear her out, Spike steps in in an attempt to allow her to obtain some rest. But is Spike up to the task of being Princess?

Score

The episode beings with "The Grand Equestria Pony Summit," which contains a catchy march orchestration that sounds like something out of a Pokémon game. This theme is quickly reprised at the beginning of the next track "Time to Hit the Books," which also gives us a funny sleepy tune for a clearly exhausted Twilight.

As Princess Spike attempts to help out around Canterlot in the track of the same name, a lovely "quick-change"-style tune is used, which sounds like something out of a intermission track during a movie. This is contrasted by the next montage scene of Spike abusing his newfound powers in "By Order of the Princess." This catchy jazz tune features plenty of high hat and saxophone.

Other shorter tracks include an accordion-driven score in "Princess Problems," a high-class harpsichord track for Fancy Pants in the track of his name, and a Zelda-sounding theme in "A Restful Sleep."

The episode ends with a reprise of a fantastic theme which first appeared in season 4's "Testing... 1... 2... 3..." from the track "Learning Differently." More significantly to this episode, this track was last used at the end of the previous Spike episode "The Equestria Games."

Party Pooped

Twilight Sparkle tasks Pinkie Pie with throwing a party for delegates from Yakyakistan. However, this task proves to be more difficult for Pinkie than she expected, as the Yaks violently reject every attempt of a party from the pink pony.

Score

The Yaks are musically represented throughout this episode with a Barbarian-style drum-and horn-driven score. After many failed attempts at courting the Yaks, Pinkie attempts to travel to their native home Yakyakistan. During this montage scene, some epic orchestral score with a nice, upbeat pace is used.

Cherry Jubilee makes another appearance after having her last major part in season 2's "The Last Roundup." During her scenes, her saloon player piano-style score is utilized, which is the same style that her music was given in her previous appearance. Another fantastic piano part appears in the track "Spike: Virtuoso," as the young Dragon fakes being able to play one. A short musical reference to The Beatles is dropped in "Sgt. Pinkie's Lonely Hooves Club Band."

The track "Secret Party Planning Cave" contains the Zelda-like motif which was heard in the previous episode "Princess Spike" during the track "A Restful Sleep." The episode concludes with a party theme which was first used in season 5's premiere episode "The Cutie Map" in the track "Our Work is Done Here" for the party put on in the equality town at the end of that episode.

Amending Fences

Spike unintentionally helps Twilight Sparkle realize that she abandoned her friends in Canterlot all the way back in season 1 when she suddenly moved to Ponyville. The Princess of Friendship now embarks on a trip to Canterlot to find her old friends and make amends.

Score

"Amending Fences" contains a fantastic score which blends together both new compositions, as well as classic ones from the series' past—all the way back to the first episode! After the opening, Twilight flies to Canterlot, accompanied by her Princess motif. As Twilight blows the dust off her old book, a reprise of a theme used in the track "Saving Twilight & the Tree" from season 4's "Princess Twilight Sparkle, pt 2" is utilized. From there, we dip into a new, sad and emotional score as Twilight reminisces about what she left behind.

After locating them all, Twilight catches up with a bunch of her old friends in the track "Best Friends Forever?". Anderson here utilizes a simple piano theme to set the mood. Twilight begins explaining why she's come back, complete with a piano / guitar motif which has been used a few times before in season 4 & 5. It was last used in the season 5 premiere after everyone gets their cutie marks back in the "Cutie Marks Recovered Suite" near the end. Before that it was also used in season 4's "Trade Ya" in the track "Not a Fair Trade."

However, most importantly this track was first used in season 4's premiere episode "Princess Twilight Sparkle" in the track "It Doesn't Feel Right." When this motif was used in that episode, it was when the Mane 6 are leaving Twilight in Canterlot while they take care of stuff in Ponyville, leaving Twilight longing for her friends. This is quite the callback musically here, where in this scene Twilight is concerned about reconnecting with old friends which she forgot about a while back. I love the little musical connections William Anderson and Kelly Davidson

are able to make, even so far apart, whether it's intentional or not.

After Twilight gives an emotional apology to her old friends, they quickly brush it off and let her know they understand. During this scene, a short little bouncy number with some piano and glockenspiel is played. It's one of those tracks that takes you back to season 1's BGM, which is very fitting given the scene.

As if the flashbacks couldn't become more intense, the episode hits us with a scene from the beginning of the very first episode of Friendship is Magic, when Twilight brushes off being invited to a party put on by Moon Dancer. Not only is the scene itself the same as the original, but the original season 1 score is brought back, also reviving fond memories for the viewer as well. As Twilight realizes what she did, we hear something we haven't heard yet in the series—a motif which was originally used in one of the Equestria Girls movies now used in the main series. This somber little motif was first used in "Rainbow Rocks" in the track "Sleepover at Pinkie's", and is based off that movie's original friendship motif.

Twilight and Moon Dancer later walk around Canterlot discussing what she's learned, and a specific version of the "Magic of Friendship" motif is utilized; it was first used at the end of season 4's "Maud Pie" in the track "Everypony Loves Pinkie". "Give Friendship a Chance" on the other hand provides us with some emotional original score for the episode. Eventually, Twilight leads Moon Dancer to a party that Pinkie Pie put together for her. As Twilight apologizes and explains how she is at fault, Anderson uses another new melancholy theme, which morphs into a variation on the "Magic of Friendship" theme. The track becomes more angry and desperate as Moon Dancer finally explains how she felt when Twilight didn't attend her party, and left them all so suddenly. The emotion in the score at the conclusion of this track as Twilight is speaking is strong, and really helps the overall scene's emotional value.

The episode ends with Moon Dancer running out to play hoofball with her new friends. This final scene is one of the most powerful and emotional endings of the entire series thus far, and it's completely because of the background track "A Party for Moon Dancer." This wonderful accordion music fits incredibly well into the scene, and drives home the emotions so greatly.

Do Princesses Dream of Magic Sheep?

The first half of season 5 ends with a bang! A mysterious creature known as the Tantabus has escaped Luna's nightmares, and has begun invading the dreams of the Mane 6. Together, can they prevent it from invading the dreams of all of Ponyville?

Score

The score of "Do Princesses Dream of Magic Sheep?" is some of the best of the series, and exemplifies everything right with its use of leitmotifs. This Luna-themed episode is full of "Luna's Theme," on of the most recognizable and best themes of the series. However, unlike many episodes prior which drop this motif, the Luna-centered "...Magic Sheep" takes this theme through many iterations and emotions throughout. The motif if first used this episode during the track "Dear Princess Luna / The Tantabus" as Luna begins to explain to the Mane 6 the situation. Here the theme is subtle and subdued, matching Luna's regret towards the current circumstances. The more melancholy version of the theme continues into the next track "Into the Dreamscape" as Luna expresses her regret with how she has acted in the past. We continue to hear small drops of the motif through the next few tracks as Luna teleports into each of the ponies' dreams.

"Luna's Theme" begins to really show its versatility in the next track "Battle of the Books / 'I Failed,'" as it returns as part of an epic action score as Twilight and Luna battle an onslaught of possessed books.

But its best use of the series is definitely in the following track. The whopping 8 minute long track is by far the longest one from the series yet, and includes "Luna's Theme" throughout in a wide variant of emotional variants. It all builds up to the best use of the motif so far in the series, as the now gigantic Tantabus begins to enter the real world. The theme is played in a haunting melody by a choir and string ensemble, while additional strings arpeggio in a grand

fashion behind. All of that mixed in with the slower tempo leads to this amazing use of the theme, and one of the most epic, beautiful, and emotional renditions of a leitmotif in the series to date.

While the featuring of "Luna's Theme" might take center stage here, the episode still boasts a strong score elsewhere as well. "...Magic Sheep" begins right away with an action sequence of the Mane 6 defeating Nightmare Moon using Rainbow Power in Luna's dream. As Luna transforms into her evil alter-ego once again, Anderson uses the same motif that was played in season 4's premiere "Princess Twilight Sparkle" while Luna transformed in that episode. As the Mane 6 assume Rainbow Power form, score from season 5's opener "The Cutie Map" is used again. This was last heard in the track of the same name from the beginning of that episode, when the Cutie Map is first appearing to the Mane 6.

The Tantabus itself also receives a theme which is used throughout the episode. You can hear it prominently at the beginning of "Dear Princess Luna / The Tantabus" and at the beginning of the episode as well. During the few scenes when Luna enters the ponies' dreams, a variation of the "Dreamscape" theme is used; it was first heard in season 4's "For Whom the Sweetie Belle Toils." An awesome brass and guitar score is utilized for Rainbow Dash's dream in the track "Changeling Fight."

As mentioned earlier, the abnormally long track "Shared Dream Suite" from the huge final dream battle harbors 8 minutes of score, and many compositions outside of "Luna's Theme." This track contains a copious amount of battle music throughout, with many reprises during. One highlight is definitely the epic guitar-heavy score during Princess Big Mac's anime-inspired transformation. As Fluttershy asks the citizens of Ponyville for help, another sorrowful violin version of Luna's motif is used.

The Ponyville citizens use their newfound dream powers to battle the Tantabus, and theme is reprised that we've only heard once before. This action theme was last used all the way back in the season 4 premiere "Princess Twilight Sparkle" during the track "Saving Twilight & the Tree", when the Mane 6 are saving Twilight from the evil Everfree vines. The version here is of

a slightly more deliberate tempo, with some additional strings added in.

And of course, how could we forget the super-creepy sudo-song "Happy Flowers" from Rainbow Dash's nightmares. Definitely one of the highlights!

The episode concludes with Luna finally getting some rest, and a reprise of the dreamscape theme from season 4's "For Whom the Sweetie Belle Toils."



Canterlot Boutique

Rarity finally achieves one of her dreams: opening a boutique in Canterlot! Everything seems to be starting off well for her, but the situation quickly turns sour as her views clash with Sassy Saddles, whom she hired to manage the store.

Score

Harpsichord? Mandolin? Must be a Rarity episode! This episode features some fantastic backing music, including the return of the fashion show-style score.

The episode begins right away with plenty of Rarichord in the score as Rarity impatiently waits for the pony post to arrive. As Rarity exclaims what the letter she received is about, Anderson uses a small motif which is similar to one heard in the season 4 episode "Simple Ways" during the track "Rari-bucking," albeit here in a different key.

In "The Reign in Stain," Rarity unveils the dress she made, which was inspired by Princess Twilight Sparkle. A delightful harpsichord and woodwind buildup is used before the introduction, leading into a lovely take on the "Princess Twilight Sparkle" theme. As Rarity continues to discuss the dress, another theme from season 4 is used. This score was last used in "For Whom the Sweetie Belle Toils" in the track "It Just Came to Me... In a Dream" in which Sweetie Belle is explaining to Rarity how she thought of the idea to use Dolphins in Sapphire Shore's headdress. After this, we hear a small little drop of a motif that's probably from as far back as season 1. One might recognize it most as one of the themes that plays in the background during the My Little Pony Gameloft mobile game.

After a long absence from the show, this episode greets us with another Rarity fashion show, and some new electronic music for it to boot! It's very reminiscent of the score to the final fashion show in "Art of the Dress" with all of the Mane 6 and their dresses, right down to how

the music changes slightly for each dress.

As Sassy Saddles reveals the final dress, which she quickly dubs "The Princess Dress," "Princess Twilight Sparkle's Theme" is once again brought back for an encore. Another theme from "Simple Ways" is also brought back. This motif was first heard in that episode's track "Rarity's Plans" as she is talking about Trenderhoof. It's reprised a few times in that episode as well.

The episode concludes with one of Rarity's lesson motifs, which was last heard at the end of season 4's "Rarity Takes Manehattan."



Rules of Rarity

After a long nine episode gap, season 5 finally has another song! And it has a MLP-first two reprises to make up for the absence. "Rules of Rarity" is fantastic at matching the emotion that Rarity is going through during the scene, and allows you to feel how she is throughout.

This classic musical number includes plenty of mandolin, guitar, and pan flute. It is definitely reminiscent of season 1's "Art of the Dress" in terms of instrumentation. The song goes through a few different emotional states as we go through Rarity's thought process. It starts out upbeat and happy as Rarity begins her dress making; this part is filled with mandolin, guitar, and a repeating flute/oboe motif.

As the song progresses, it comes to a little bridge during which the pace picks up a tad, and more orchestra is added as it builds. As Sassy Saddles presents Rarity with more work, the music quickly turns sorrowful, with more strings added, as Rarity is forced to make the same dresses over and over. This leads into a somber repeat of the song's chorus, with a more prominent mandolin.

Inspiration then hits Rarity, and the song picks up into a second bridge and a couple key changes. During the second part of the bridge, more brass is brought in as the tempo increases and guitar switches up. It really gives you an invigorated feeling, much like what Rarity is feeling.

As Rarity finishes the modifications to the dress, the chorus is reprised again, this time with a new, even more upbeat style with more glockenspiel and strings than before.

One must give credit to Kazumi Evans here for her amazing vocals for this song. There are so many little nuances which really add to the feel of the entire work. Also, Caleb Chan continues to do a fantastic job at filling in Steffan Andrews' large shoes with the song's orchestration.



Rules of Rarity (Reprise 1)

In the first of two for "Rules of Rarity", Rarity gives an emotional reprise about what her Canterlot boutique has become. This reprise is much more orchestral than the song it's from, and builds in more brass in the background, before ending on a very ominous hit.

Rules of Rarity (Reprise 2)

"Rules of Rarity" is reprised one final time, once again taking on the happier tone of the end of the original song. There is a very prominent, triumphant horn throughout, and the number ends with a large brass buildup.



"Rules of Rarity"

The rules of Rarity
Guaranteed quality
This I can assure
For each and every dress
I vow to give finesse
With time, love, and couture

My favorite moment's when a
pony sees it
That special gown that she just adores
That pony's now in style
My hard work's all worthwhile
Oh, yes, it makes my heart
My heart just soar

The rules of Rarity
Just a parody
No dress here's unique
The panels all the same
Each colored windowpane
I fashion only makes me want to shriek!

Oh, to create would give me elation
To feel once again some inspiration
Come on now, Rarity
Give me some clarity
Time for your couture love to rule

The rules of Rarity
Extra TLC
This feels more sublime
Soon now, they will see
How good these can be
With a little extra shine

The rules of Rarity
Guaranteed quality
All can see it's true
These new gems add such flair
Their beauty can't compare
This old style suddenly gleams anew

"Rules of Rarity (Reprise 1)"

The rules of Rarity
Once stood for something
But now it feels just like some factory

Now every dress I make
With every flaw and mistake
Oh, how it makes my heart
My heart just break

"Rules of Rarity (Reprise 2)"

My favorite moment's when a
pony sees it
That special gown that she just adores
That pony's now in style
My hard work's all worthwhile
Oh, yes, it makes my heart
My heart just soar

Rarity Investigates!

In one of the most stylistically-savvy episodes of the series, Rainbow Dash is a backup flyer for the Wonderbolts during their performance for Celestia's royal garden opening. However, when Spitfire is called away and Rainbow Dash is set to replace her, Wind Rider quickly accuses her of faking the note to Spitfire in order to take her place. It's up to Rarity to prove Rainbow's innocence in this film noir-inspired crime story!

Score

Much like the episode itself, the score of "Rarity Investigates!" takes its cues from classic film noir. It is most certainly some of the most unique score of the series. Unfortunately, most of the scenes that contained the film noir music were shown only in mono to enhance the classic film effect. However, that meant that all of that score was not able to be ripped.

Thankfully, the credits of the episode did have the main noir motif for the episode during them. This episode began a trend for this season of having different backing music for the credits of various episodes versus the normal My Little Pony theme. In the past, alternate credits music was usually reserved for two-parters and special musical episodes, with a few exceptions. However, starting with this episode, there were quite a few episodes with different score in the credits. This might be due to this being the first season to air on the new Discovery Family, and William Anderson noticing that, unlike The Hub, they were not running promos over the show's credits sequence. This would explain why more credits featured different music during the second half of season five.

On the subject of this episode's credits score, this one just caps of the amazing feel and style that this episode had in the most perfect way. The noir theme here seems to be loosely based on the MLP theme in terms of beat and note progression. William Anderson also played the trumpet for this track. This is also the only time the score during credits has been dubbed over

the Hasbro and DHX logos.

The jazz noir also drops at other points in the episode, including the opening track "Femme Mystique Chic." As the track progresses, a motif from the episode "Simple Ways" is used. It was used in the track "Applejewel / Dueling Ways" during that episode's climax. In "The Postman Always Rings Twice," another theme is reprised from the season 4 episode "Simple Ways". This is the "love theme" from that episode, used when Rarity is eyeing Trenderhoof, or the latter is eyeing Applejack. Here, it's fittingly used as Rarity is working her charms on the postman.

As the episode begins to involve the Wonderbolts more, themes which are usually heard in episodes they are involved in begin to arrive. When Rainbow Dash flys with Wind Rider in "Out of the Past," another theme is reprised from Season 4. This theme was first used in the episode "Rainbow Falls" during the final race for Ponyville's qualification in the track "The Choice / The Race". This motif is also used in "The Desperate Hours."

Finally, in "Sweet Smell of Success," as Rainbow Dash returns with Spitfire, another reprise of the Wonderbolts' theme is used. As Dash and Rarity talk, a small lesson theme from the series is heard, before a drop of the "Friendship is Magic" theme used throughout season 4. Another part of the Wonderbolts' theme is used as Spitfire dismissed Wind Rider from the Wonderbolts. This theme first appeared in season 3's "Wonderbolts Academy" at the end during the track "'I Quit!' / Lead Pony", and was utilized again in season 4's "Rainbow Falls".

Made in Manehattan

In the third Cutie Map episode, Rarity and Applejack are called to Manehattan to help Coco Pommel with the Midsummer Theatre Revival. However, it turns out to be more of a challenge than any of them expected. Can Rarity and Applejack pull it off?

Score

With "Made in Manehattan" being the third Cutie Map arc episode of the season, it was expectedly filled with motifs from the previous map episodes. This one begins right away with one of these themes. As we see Applejack and Rarity's cutie marks glow, the map summoning motif is played. This motif was first used in the season 5 opener in the track "The Call of the Cutie" when all of the Mane 6 were summoned to the unnamed town. It appears again quickly here at the beginning of the next track, "Summoned to Manehattan."

As the map informs Applejack and Rarity where they are being summoned, Anderson uses a theme that has been used for the map exposition during the three map episodes so far. It appeared first in the season 5 opener in "The Call of the Cutie," and briefly in "The Lost Treasure of Griffonstone" right before Twilight gives the history of that location. Twilight next talks about the map and the mission, and a brief reprise of the season 4 "Magic of Friendship" theme is used.

The duo travel to Manehattan, during which the motif for Manehattan, first used in the track of the same name in season 4's "Rarity Takes Manehattan," is reprised. This is followed by one of the series' travel themes, which was last used in the season 5 episode "Canterlot Boutique" in the beginning of the track "Canterlot Carousel". In "The Fashionista is In", there is an hilarious homage to Charlie Brown, complete with Rarity at a stand giving advice, a Charlie Brown look-alike pony, BGM straight out of one of the TV specials, and capped off with Rarity saying "good grief".



Right before Rarity is hit in the head with the flyer, we get our first taste of a piano motif that will be used later in the episode to represent the Midsummer Theatre Revival. You can hear it in an expanded form in that track, as well as in "Friendship in Manehattan."

"Made in Manehattan" ends with the track "Friendship in Manehattan," which begins with a reprise of the piano & guitar theme that was used earlier in the episode in the track "Midsummer Theatre Revival." As Rarity and Applejack's cutie marks glow, signifying their job in Manehattan is complete, the "Our Work is Done Here" motif is reprised, which has appeared at the conclusion of each map episode this season. It was first heard in the season 1 premiere's ending track "Our Work is Done Here", and was heard again in "The Lost Treasure of Griffonstone" in the track "Friendship in Griffonstone". The track ends with Rarity's lesson theme, which was also heard at the end of "Rarity Takes Manehattan", and more recently "Canterlot Boutique".

This episode continues "Rarity Investigates!" lead with having special score during the credits. This banjo composition was heard earlier in the episode during the Applejack working montage in the track "Just a Lil' Yard Work." It's great being able to have these clean tracks of score from many of the credits sequences this season!

Brotherhooves Social

In a direct tie-back to the previous episode, Apple Bloom is upset that Applejack has been called away by the Cutie Map during the Sisterhooves Social, meaning she cannot participate. Not wanting to see his sister sit on the sidelines upset, Big Mac becomes Cousin "Orchard Blossom" in order to race with his sister.

Score

After a few opening western-style tracks, the score of the episode begins to become emotional as Apple Bloom realizes that she will not be able to race in the Sisterhooves Social with Applejack this year. Big Mac becomes bitter about how much Apple Bloom looks up to Applejack, and feels like he's lost his special connection to his youngest sibling. As Applejack goes to talk to Big Mac, a theme is reprised which first appeared in season 3's "Apple Family Reunion" in the track "Apples Departing / A Successful Reunion Letter."

Big Mac becomes Cousin "Orchard Blossom" in the track of the same name, during which we are greeted with Orchard Blossom's motif. The next track "Brotherhooves Race" contains some very enjoyable race music, which takes you back to the season 2 episode.

Hands down, the highlight track of the episode and one of the most beautiful and emotional tracks from the entire series is this episode's title track. When the piano comes in as Apple Bloom is talking, it boosts the emotion of the scene so much in just the right way. As Big Mac speaks, we get an equally emotional woodwind and string piece, which builds up to a fantastic climax and drop-off, before changing into our happy, resolved ending looking at the sun. Orchard Blossom's theme gets one final reprise as Big Mac imitates her one last time for Apple Bloom. There's not much more to say about this track; it's one of the best from this series and some of William Anderson and Kelly Davidson's best work.

Sisterhood

Branching off into yet uncharted territory musically for the show and Ingram, "Sisterhood" is a Dolly Parton-esc country waltz song, with added distortion to make it sound like it's being played via a record. It's a rather touching song in a way, which becomes a bit ridiculous as Big Mac gets a little too into it, and finishes with a power slide.

Daniel Ingram once again shows he can tackle any genre of music and hit it on the head.





"Sisterhood"

We all love our brothers
And our fathers and mothers
We honor them like
every family should

But there's somethin' that's quite unique
When my sister's there with me
And we share that special
bond of sisterhood

Sisterhood
Sisterhood
Is a special kind of friend

Sisterhood
Sisterhood
Is a bond that never ends

It's not always perfect
You might fight or be misunderstood
But together you'll
always have sisterhood

Sisterhood
Sisterhood
Sisterhood
Sisterhood
Sisterhood
Sisterhood
Sisterhood

Crusaders of the Lost Mark

It's class president election time, and Pip has asked the Cutie Mark Crusaders for help in running his campaign against Diamond Tiara. When the vote doesn't swing her way, and her right-hand mare Silver Spoon deserts her, Diamond Tiara must come to terms with who she is and who she wants to be. Can the CMC help her during this dark time?

Score

This is the episode we've all been waiting for. And wow, did it deliver—on the 5th Anniversary of Friendship is Magic, no less! More Pip, Silver Spoon finally stands up to Diamond Tiara, the former receives a beautiful redemption, and it's all capped off with the Cutie Mark Crusaders, after 5 seasons and over 100 episodes, discovering their cutie marks!

And if that wasn't enough, it's another musical episode written by Amy Keating Rogers with songs and score my Daniel Ingram. Like with Magical Mystery Cure and Pinkie Pride, Ingram (as well as orchestrator Caleb Chan) did the score in addition to the songs for this episode, instead of William Anderson handling the former. Since there are so many songs in this kind of episode, it helps to have the score and songs flow together nicely—and they do wonderfully here!

The episode's score begins with "Presidential Race," which has a short musical foreshadowing to the next song, "The Vote". As Diamond Tiara enters the scene, the score becomes more mischievous, with the strings and xylophone taking the center stage. The track ends with more foreshadowing to the intro of "The Vote". The musical themes of this song also continue into the score directly following, "The Student Pony President Is...", including Silver Spoon's verse of the song as she is speaking.

In "Spoiled Rich," the CMC talk about going to help Diamond Tiara after she ran off, and a little cue from the next song "The Pony I Want to Be" is once again beautifully interwoven into

the score. Diamond's mother, Spoiled Rich, quickly enters the scene. For her, some woodwinds, strings, and timpani, in a very pompous, staccato manner. Some well thought out instrumentation for this character.

After the next song, "The Pony I Want to Be," more interlude score appears in the track "'You Three Are Really Lucky'." As Diamond Tiara sulks while walking out of the schoolhouse, more song callbacks come in the form of an instrumental reprise of her emotional number from the previous scene. One must appreciate how the music flows from scene to scene, and ties the entire episode together. That motif builds again as they are talking in the clubhouse. We return to Diamond Tiara's harpsichord motif from act 1 afterwards. When Pip arrives, a short instrumental reprise of "The Vote" is played behind the CMC's dialogue.

The next track, "The Choice," which is between the "Light of Your Cutie Mark" and "The Pony I Want to Be (Reprise) songs, begins with an instrumental reprise of the prior song. As Diamond Tiara's mother enters, Ingram reprises her motif from earlier. Finally, as Diamond Tiara sticks up for the CMC, an instrumental reprise of her song "The Pony I Want to Be" is used. This is a more positive take on it, based on the reprise of that song that comes next.

After Diamond Tiara's reprise, the final interlude score of the episode arrives. In one of the pinnacle moments of the series, the Cutie Mark Crusaders finally find their cutie marks! This track begins with an instrumental reprise of the "We'll Make Our Mark" theme from the beginning of the episode, which of course will have the full song played after this track. The CMC's hooves connect in a high-hoof, and their cutie mark transformation begins, accompanied by a wonderful transformation score—very reminiscent of Twilight's from "Magical Mystery Cure". The track ends with a little piece of the instrumental of "We'll Make Our Mark," which includes just the strings, bass drum, and some other various percussion.

We'll Make Our Mark

In a fairly rare occasion (usually only for musical episodes), the episode begins with a song, even before the opening credits! Little do we know that this song is actually a prelude to the actual song which will be sung by the Cutie Mark Crusaders at the end of the episode. This is something new for the series, which in the past has only done reprises. It was pulled off very nicely here, with this song tying into the events that will be happening throughout episode, and how it ties into the actual song. It makes it even better on the second watchthrough as you ask "how did I not guess what was going to happen?"

This song is more of a traditional Friendship is Magic song, and a ringer for one lyricized by Amy Keating Rogers, with plenty of mandolin and ukulele. It's great to hear all the CMC sing once again, including Claire Corlette once again for Sweetie Belle, and their beautiful harmonies.

The Vote

A dueling song between the Cutie Mark Crusaders and Diamond Tiara, "The Vote" offers quite a bit musically and character-wise. First off, this is the second time we've heard Diamond Tiara singing (voiced by Chantal Strand), after she had a few singing lines at the beginning of the previous musical episode (hilariously enough also by Amy Keating Rogers). Strand delivers a stellar performance here and throughout the rest of the episode. "The Vote" also offers Silver Spoon's first singing lines by Shannon Chan-Kent.

This track encompasses almost the entirety of this episode's first act, as well as Diamond Tiara's downfall. It is also comprised of two different styles of songs melded into one. With a more traditional, and really catchy, CMC march with fantastic harmonies on one end, and a sinister villain number sung by Diamond Tiara on the other end, comprised of a lot of bass and harpsichord.

One thing Friendship is Magic has always excelled at is telling story through song, and not having them there just to have a musical number. All of the songs in the episode encompass that. The entire episode is set up in this one song; from Diamond Tiara's bullying of Silver Spoon, to everypony turning on the former, then the CMC helping another filly. A great deal of information is told about this episode's story, and the characters within during this short time, and much character development takes place.

According to Amy Keating Rogers, the lyrics for "The Vote" were inspired by the song "What Is This Feeling?" from the hit musical "Wicked".

The Pony I Want to Be

Was anyone prepared for or expecting an emotional, heart-filled and somber Diamond Tiara solo song? It was simply beautiful. It's great to finally hear Chantal Strand sing an extended solo, as her singing voice as Diamond Tiara is beautiful.

"The Pony I Want to Be" begins with a simple piano backing. As we reach the first chorus, woodwinds and strings are added, as well as harmonies for the vocals. The backing picks up more during the second chorus, with some slow percussion and further instrumentation to end the song.

This is a fantastic number, and really drives the emotion home. It does somehow make you feel bad for Diamond Tiara.

According to Amy Keating Rogers, the lyrics for this song were inspired by "When She Loved Me" from "Toy Story 2."

Light of Your Cutie Mark

This song accomplishes two things: First off, it's fast-paced and backs the Cutie Mark Crusaders chasing Diamond Tiara as she rushes to call out Pip's issues. Second, it allows Diamond Tiara to fall back into her old ways, before being convinced by the CMC to do otherwise.

Diamond Tiara starts the first verse of this quick march, followed by a verse by the CMC. From there, the song goes into a beautiful bridge sung by Diamond.

The CMC pick up with another verse, before branching into their end to the song. This final 3-part harmony for the CMC by Trevor Hoffman is incredibly moving and powerful. It is some of the best harmonization yet in the show.



The Pony I Want to Be (Reprise)

Second surprise of the episode: Redeemed Diamond Tiara! And it comes with a reprise!

The ukulele in the background here definitely brings a resemblance in chords and beat to that of the backing track to "Make a Wish" from the previous musical episode in season 4, "Pinkie Pride".

The song itself is a more upbeat version of "The Pony I Want to Be," which then turns into a bonus reprise to "Light of Your Cutie Mark" as well. After the first verse, the song has an instrumental section with a great string ensemble picking up the melody, before building up to the amazing finale. Percussion and brass are added on top, with a great french horn part as well.

This song mixes together the themes of "The Pony I Want to Be" and "Light of Your Cutie Mark" so perfectly, you might not even hear both of the songs on the first listen through. "Filli Vanilli" did something similar with the track "Find the Music in You (In the Treetops Remix)." Superb job to Daniel Ingram and Caleb Chan the stellar work here!

We'll Make Our Mark

And the award for most unexpected event in an episode goes to... After five years, five seasons, 109 episodes, and countless tries, the Cutie Mark Crusaders have discovered their cutie marks! Now to celebrate it: the song which had a prelude at the beginning of the episode.

This is a beautiful song, incredibly catchy, and one of the best of the show. It was heard quickly during the cold open's number, but now here is the full thing in all its glory. "We'll Make Our Mark" begins simply with some mandolin and additional percussion versus the prelude.

As we reach the first chorus, the song quickly builds into a fantastic full orchestration with additional brass on top. After, there is a small bridge with the CMC's sisters. First, an emotional dialogue section with Applejack, then more bonding with Rainbow Dash and Scootaloo, and a beautiful solo by Rarity. All three sisters then sing the chorus together. This part is incredibly emotional, and seeing these three sisters sing to their younger siblings, after all they have been through together during the series, really brings the emotions home.

Next, a powerful bridge as flashbacks from the previous CMC episodes appear on screen, before the song ramps up into one final, grand run of the chorus will full orchestration. And ending this episode and song with a repeat of the intro sequence is just perfect.

Perfect. This describes this song and third act. This is some of Daniel Ingram's best work, and the amount of emotion conveyed through the song is incredible. Caleb Chan's orchestration throughout its entirety, especially the final chorus might be the best of the series. From the lovely glockenspiel, to the beautiful use of french horn, to the triumphant trumpets echoing the CMC's melody, this orchestration is flawless.

One final note: Amy Keating Rogers listed "You Can't Stop the Beat" from the musical "Hairspray!" as her inspiration for the lyrics.



"We'll Make Our Mark (Prelude)"

We've been searchin'
for our cutie marks
For a while now
Tryin' to find out how we fit in
So many ways we've tried before
But we keep on tryin' more
'Cause the Cutie Mark Crusaders
don't give in

We'll make our mark
One way or another
We'll make our mark
On the day that we discover
The ultimate reward of our cutie marks!

"The Vote"

It's time to make a change
This is our chance
Don't be afraid to do what's right
He's it! Vote for Pip

We got an opportunity
To have fun again
A vote for Pip
and you can join the fight

It's time for a new leader
It's time to make a change
We're here to fight for what we believe
Vote for Pip!

It's finally time we beat her
And play a better game
'Cause when we vote together
There's nothing that we can't achieve

I don't believe what I am hearing
I'm the only one you should be cheering
Pipsqueak? Try "Pip's weak!"
Don't you think?

But a diamond is perfection
It's a natural selection
So your vote better be for me
not the weakest link

Everypony has their little secrets
I know you do
A vote for me will help
you keep them safe
Like your creepy super strength
Or your mane extension
A little thing I won't mention
Or those freakish large
teeth in your face

Come on now, ponies! Don't listen to her
You've gotta vote for change
It's time for a new leader
End all the tyranny
Vote now and we can beat her

It's now another day
And we believe in what's right
Vote for Pip! Vote for Pip
Our victory is in sight

Stop! Everypony who
hasn't voted, listen up
Pip makes promises he can't keep
but I can do more
You could really use a new bookbag

'Cause I'll make things happen
That none of you here can afford
To do, like, ever

Wouldn't you like
a little something sweet?
Here's a parasol to
hide you from the heat
Who says that I can't be nice?

But first there's one thing
An itsy-bitsy little string
And voting for me is the price

I've a tiny suggestion
That you should be aware
You could probably win this election
If you show them all you really

(Vote!)
Stand strong and
don't be afraid, ponies
(For Pip! Vote!)
Let's free ourselves from the past
He's it! Vote for Pip

(Vote!)
We'll let honor win out
against the tyranny
(For Pip! Vote!)
And make a change that will last
Vote for Pip!

It's time for a new leader
It's time to make a change
We're here to fight for what we believe
Vote for Pip!

It's finally time we beat her
And play a better game
'Cause when we vote together
There's nothing that we can't achieve

Vote for Pip!

"The Pony I Want to Be"

If I'm a Diamond
Then why do I feel so rough?
I'm as strong as a stone
Even that's not enough

There's something jagged in me
And I've made such mistakes
I thought that diamonds were hard
Though I feel I could break

Would you believe
That I've always wished
I could be somepony else?
Yet I can't see
What I need to do
To be the pony I want to be

I've been told my whole life
What to do, what to say
Nopony showed me that
There might be some better way

And now I feel like I'm lost
I don't know what to do
The ground is sinking away
I'm about to fall through

Would you believe
That I've always wished
I could be somepony else?
Yet I can't see
What I need to do
To be the pony I want to be
To be the pony I want to be

"Light of Your Cutie Mark"

Cutie Mark Crusaders
Get out of my way
Those ponies need to know the truth
And they'll hear it from me

Stop! Diamond Tiara
This is not the way
You know you're better than this
Hostility

You don't even know me at all
Don't understand the meaning
of my fall
What my family would think if I ever
Fail at anything

I'm a diamond
That means you'll never break
No matter what
Be the cost of the path I take
Whatever I have to do
to win in the end

Stop! This is not the answer
Wait! And it's plainly seen
Listen! You can redeem yourself
But by helping others
not by being mean

We know you want friends
who admire you
You want to be the star
with all the power too
But there's a better way
There's a better way

There's so much more still left to
Learn about yourself
See the light that shines in you
We know you can be somepony else

You can stop right now
And try another start
You'll finally free yourself
from the dark
And see the light
And see the light of your cutie mark

"The Pony I Want to Be (Reprise)"

We'll build a playground
For all of us to enjoy
So full of games
There's enough for each girl and boy

I want to help and do
Everything that I can
I'm here to show you I changed
Listen up, here's the plan

There's so much I can do
To help everypony else
I see the light that shines in me
I know I can be my better self

I can free the past
'Cause now the future's bright for me
My cutie mark has set me free
To do what's right
And be the pony I want to be
And be the pony I want to be!

"We'll Make Our Mark"

We were searching for our cutie marks
for a while there
Trying to find out how we fit in
So many ways we've tried before
But we kept on trying more
'Cause the Cutie Mark Crusaders
don't give in

Now we know what it took all along
And our journey here is
never really done
For it is more than just a mark
It's a place for us to start
An adventure that has only just begun

We'll make our mark
Show the world what we can do
We'll make our mark
Helping fillies to break through
To the ultimate reward of a cutie mark

Oh, sugarcube
If Mom and Dad were here
they'd be so proud of ya
Oh; Thanks, Applejack.
Now go on and party with your pals

I'm so proud of you, little buddy
You've taught me a thing or two
You've inspired everypony around you
And you've inspired me too



You've made your mark
Done Equestria so proud
You've made your mark
And we're here to sing it loud
For the ultimate reward
of your cutie mark

We started out just three
Crusaders driven to see
What we find in our hearts
Discover our destiny

And here we are, best friends
About to start it again
An adventure that never will end

We'll make our mark
Helping fillies most in need
We'll make our mark
So each one of them succeeds
'Cause the ultimate reward
is a cutie mark

The One Where Pinkie Pie Knows

Cadance and Shining armor have a secret, and Pinkie Pie knows! But she's been tasked to not tell her friends. Can Pinkie keep this huge secret all to herself?

Score

After the previous bombshell episode, this one reels back the backing score a tad for a Pinkie Pie comedy-focused story. However, it still packs some fantastic score in the few tracks, and some reprised themes to boot.

The score begins as Twilight shows the rest of the Mane 6 the room she's set up for Shining Armor to stay in, complete with treasured items from his childhood. This track has a very medieval theme to it. Actually, it sounds a lot like a theme you'd hear in a Zelda game inside a shop or other building.

What would a Pinkie Pie episode be without some Pinkie Polka?! "Avoiding Ponies Polka" delivers in that aspect! Put on some lederhosen, grab your accordion, and bounce along. Next, as Pinkie visits the schoolhouse to make balloon animals a familiar theme is used, which we last heard in the season 5 premiere. It was featured there in the track "Our Work is Done Here", as the equal town is celebrating their new freedom. In "Keeping Something In," Anderson uses a reprise of a motif that was last used in "Castle Sweet Castle" at the end of the episode at the end of the track "The Chandelier of Memories." The track ends with a trippy track as Pinkie Pie enters her hallucination. "Shining & Cadance" has a lovely little oboe tune, which seems to be loosely based on the motif first heard at the beginning of the episode.

The episode ends with another wonderful track reprised from earlier in the season. It first appeared in the episode "Amending Fences" in the track "Blast From the Past" when Twilight is eating dinner with her old friends from Canterlot.

Hearthbreakers

It's once again Hearth's Warming Eve, and this year the Apples are traveling with Pinkie Pie to the her family's farm for the holidays. But will major differences in traditions spoil everything?

Score

Our first holiday episode of the season (in episode aired order), is fittingly filled with many Christmas-inspired carols in the backing music, including some beautiful new compositions. The holiday score begins right off the bat with plenty of sleigh bells and woodwinds in the opening track. As Twilight speaks, the track picks up with some staccato horns as well.

In "The Rock Farm," the Apples arrive at the Pie's Rock Farm. The track begins with a short drop of the "Minute's Rest" theme, which has been used many times since its initial appearance in "Apple Family Reunion." It makes another holiday-themed appearance later in "Hearth's Warming Apple-Style." As the ponies enter the Rock Farm, a gorgeous holiday-themed orchestral score plays, which will become this episode's main motif. It's reprised later in the episode, and again during the credits sequence, although this version seems to be backed by more organ (fitting with Pinkie's parents' theme). It quickly changes to a church organ as the Apples are introduced to Pinkie's parents: Igneous Rock Pie and Cloudy Quartz. For Marble Pie a quiet woodwind score is used, much like Fluttershy's, but with more "tango"-like sound.

As the episode begins to hit its emotional high in "Worst Hearth's Warming Ever!," the score takes on a sad motif which first appeared in the track "Rainbow's Way" in the season 4 episode "Testing... Testing... 1, 2, 3." The scene then shifts to the mine, and as Applejack is talking to Pinkie, a sad version of the "Minutes Rest" theme from season 3's "Apple Family Reunion" is used again in this episode. The track ends with another tearful rendition of the theme from "Rainbow's Way."

As Granny Smith gives the history of Holder's Boulder, the motif from "The Rock Farm" returns. This track ends with some great new banjo-driven lesson music for Applejack.

The episode reaches its conclusion in "Apple Pies," and what better way to end a Holiday-themed episode then with some wonderful Holiday-themed score? This track is complete with plenty of bells, sleigh bells, and orchestra, and has a fantastic build up to the end.

We finish off with yet another special credits score—the fourth so far of the season! What a beautiful track this is, too. It is a reprise of the theme which was heard in the track "Holder's Boulder / Traditions," when Granny Smith is explaining why the Pies have their traditions, after reading about them in a book. A perfect way to end this Hearth's Warming Eve episode.



Scare Master

It's once again time for Nightmare Night, but Fluttershy, as normal, is not planning to participate. However, with a little help from her animal friends, she decides to give it a try. Can she overcome her fears?

Score

Our second holiday-themed episode of the season (at least in aired order), greets us with plenty of spooky and cooky Halloween music, theremin, and a pinch of Fluttershy woodwinds. It begins with some creepy and bouncy score, complete with xylophone and theremin. This is one of the main motifs of the episode, and will be reprised multiple times. It actually bears resemblance to Gruntilda's motif from "Banjo Kazooie," or the theme from "Alfred Hitchcock Presents."

"Nightmare Games" introduces a secondary Nightmare Night motif, whose melody sounds similar to that of the classic composition "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy." The track "The Apple Family Haunted Maze" begins with the Nightmare Night motif that has been heard throughout the episode. Spooky music kicks in afterwards, with plenty of haunted choir, strings, and shock brass. The score then takes more of a horror movie turn as the "real" spooks begin to happen, followed by some prolonged chase scene score.

The episode's final track "The Scare Master" begins with a very upbeat score as the Mane 6 congratulate Fluttershy on a job well done. As the track continues, a little string ensemble build-up is used until Fluttershy admits that she still doesn't want to participate. Afterwards, a reprise of one of Fluttershy's lesson themes is used, this time with a new ending.

What About Discord?

Discord is up to his old tricks again, and this time when he and the Mane 6 have an inside joke that has left Twilight out, the Princess of Friendship becomes jealous.

Score

With our second Discord episode of the season comes our second dosage of his wacky and chaotic musical stylings. After the opening, the score begins in "'It's Not Like We Missed Anything'" with a familiar motif, "Princess Twilight Sparkle's Theme", which we've heard used for her since the beginning of season 4. It makes another return in "'I Don't Get Jealous.'"

Twilight tries to explain the inside joke with SCIENCE in the track "The Science of Friendship." Now here's a theme that hasn't been used in ages. The track begins with a piece of score which was first heard in the track "A Real Magical Amulet" all the way back in season 3's "Magic Duel". The theme was used again in that episode, at a quicker pace, during the track "A Second Duel". You have to love the little nod to the "Back to the Future" score at the end of this track as Pinkie Pie parodies Marty McFly's look on screen, while talking about time travel. Zecora makes an appearance next, and brings with her her themed score. Twilight finally admits to how she's been feeling in "'But I Wasn't There!'." The score slowly builds with Twilight's frustration, climaxing with a sorrowful piece. After this, the theme from the track "The Chandelier of Memories" from season 5's "Castle Sweet Castle" is reprised as her friends tell her it's okay for her to feel jealous, and she has to admit that.

The episode concludes with one of Discord's main motifs, which has been used since his reformation beginning in the track "Practically Reformed Already" from season 3's "Keep Calm and Flutter On". When Discord talks about "the old me", the other main Discord motif is used. This staccato theme is from all the way back in his initial appearance in the season 2 premiere "The Return of Harmony." It's neat to hear these two different themes used to represent new and old Discord.

The Hooffields and McColts

Twilight is finally called by the map, along with Fluttershy. When they arrive at the location, they are greeted with two feuding families. Can the pair stop the feud?

Score

We reach our final Cutie Map arc episode of the season, and are once again greeted by its motifs. The episode begins with some classic Fluttershy instrumentation, with plenty of woodwinds. As her cutie mark begins to flash, the map summoning theme makes another appearance. This motif first appeared in the season 5 opener, and has shown itself in each cutie map episode this season when the Mane 6's cutie marks alert them to a friendship problem.

The next track, "Summoned to the Smokey Mountains" begins with one of the common Fluttershy motifs for the series. As Twilight says she's the Princess of Friendship, a short drop of the "Princess Twilight Sparkle" theme is used. A nice little string piece then plays as Twilight talks about the Smokey Mountains themselves, which is actually based on a motif we'll hear later during the flashback montage and credits, in a nice bit of musical foreshadowing.

Our bluegrass-style score for the episode kicks in right at the start of "The Hooffields," as we are greeted with the family's motif—the first of two dueling ones for these two dueling families. It's fantastic how William Anderson has given each family it's own unique style, and how they compete later on in the episode. The Hooffield's motif, featured in this track, is characterized more by banjos and guitars.

The music then shifts over to the McColts as we are introduced to their family and motif. While the Hooffield's was driven more by banjo and strings, the McColts' is driven by pot, pans, and good 'ol blowin' in jugs. This really is a fantastic choice of instrumentation for them, as it sounds more mechanical. As it is revealed in the episode, the McColts are more focused on

building, while the Hooffields are focused on growing food.

The family feud kicks back up in "Tomato Slingin' & Bale Shootin'." This track combines the musical style of both families, featuring banjo, pots & pans, and glass jugs. As the track continues, Twilight tries to figure out why the two families are fighting, and attempts to talk to each of them about it. As she visits the two families, the backing score switches between their two different motifs. This is a fantastic track to hear the differences in the instrumentation for both of them. As Twilight tries to deliver an apology cake, a slower version of the Hooffield's motif is featured. This is quickly interrupted once the Hooffields burst out of the cake, as their score once again takes over.

With nothing Twilight is trying working, the score turns to a sad motif we have heard numerous times throughout the series, including the season 3 episode "Games Ponies Play." It made another appearance in season 4's "Rainbow Falls" as Rainbow Dash is asking Twilight for advice on what to do with her situation there. Fluttershy takes over the score from there as she tends to the neglected woodland creatures. The score takes a beautiful, emotional turn here, as the woodwinds and string ensemble push on.

Fluttershy learns of the two families' histories, and what their feud has done to the valley and it's inhabitants, and explains this to them. The flashback montage music is always some of the best in this series, and this episode's is no exception. The track begins with a combined instrumentation of the Hooffield's banjos and McColt's Dobro guitar, helping to signify the two friends' friendship at this time. As the two friends begin to argue and disagree, their two scores begin to separate, beginning with the McColts' motif of pots & pans, Dobro, and glass jugs. Then, as Grub begins to knock down Piles' building, the score switches over to the Hooffields' motif with banjo and guitar. The music continues to shift back and forth between each family's musical stylings as the two friends continue to fight. This track is a perfect example of how music can help tell a story, and can subconsciously define characters for you. More great work from William Anderson and team here and throughout the episode!

And to top it off, this score is reprised in yet another special credits track—the fifth time this season!

The episode concludes with "Friendship in the Smokey Mountains," which begins with an emotional piece of score as Fluttershy makes her appeal to the two families. As the families begin to make their amends and work together, the theme from the "Family Histories" montages is reprised.

After they make amends, Twilight and Fluttershy's cutie marks begin to glow again, signifying the mission is complete. For this, we once again are greeted with the "Our Work is Done Here" season motif which first appeared in the season opener, and has shown up in every map episode when the mission is a success.

As Twilight and Fluttershy are walking away, one of Twilight's motifs which first appeared during the cold open of season 4's "Princess Twilight Sparkle" is reprised, and builds into our final chord.



The Mane Attraction

The Helping Hooves Music festival is about to begin, and Pinkie Pie has scored the biggest pop sensation in all of Equestria: Countess Coloratura! But when Applejack realizes that the Countess is actually her childhood friend Rara, she embarks on a mission to help her find her true self and escape from an abusive manager.

Score

This extremely musically diverse episode begins with a short, fun, and upbeat banjo and flute-driven piece as Ponyville is preparing the stage for the Helping Hooves Music Festival. As Applejack reflects at her time in camp with Rara, a simple, lovely banjo motif makes its first appearance. It will be used a few times throughout the episode.

When Countess Coloratura arrives on scene, the score does a 180° shift. Her "theme music" is very electro-pop, with some nice strings which come in near the end. It fits in perfectly with "The Spectacle" which comes up after this. The music shifts back again a little later in "School Ponies." Here, the banjo motif from the beginning of the episode returns as Rara is doing something she is truly passionate about: spending time with her young fans.

Finally, later in the episode after Rara's manager quits, the final track of score is heard. The track begins with the banjo motif from "The Real You," before going into a very Rarity-like freakout. As Applejack talks to Rara, a reprise is heard of an Applejack lesson motif that originally appeared at the end of season 3's "Apple Family Reunion" in the track "Apples Departing." It's made several other appearances in Apple episodes throughout the series, most recently in the track "Bitter Mac" from the episode "Brotherhooves Social."

Equestria, the Land I Love

With four songs spread throughout this episode, Amy Keating Rogers more or less delivers a second musical episode for her this season in her final outing writing for Friendship is Magic.

The songs begin with a simple acoustic version of an anthem for Equestria, which might be the national anthem. Either way, here we are graced with the first Lena Hall vocals of the episode. With Applejack backing up on guitar, a young Rara delivers some stunning vocals singing this anthem. Amy Keating Rogers stated that the song was inspired by "America the Beautiful."



The Spectacle

Friendship is Magic has had some rap and dubstep the past few seasons, so maybe this shouldn't come as a surprise, but here is a style of music which most people probably never thought we'd hear on MLP outside of Equestria Girls. Straight out of a Lady Gaga number, "The Spectacle" is a very heavily-produced pop song complete with ample synths, bass, and unicorn-enabled autotune.

Even though this song is meant to be over-the-top, heavily produced, etc., it still manages to be pretty fun. Daniel Ingram and team once again tackle a new genre of music and hit it right-on-the-head. This could easily be mistaken for a true Lady Gaga song, which is a big complement to the team for their work.

The track begins slowly, at least compared to the rest of the song, but it picks up quickly into the first chorus, complete with plenty of synths and ample production. One of the highlights is the bridge that comes next, with some catchy arpeggios on the synths, and a pretty nice vocal part. (Complete with a unicorn Prince providing autotune!)

The scene itself has some great animation and effects, and plays out more like an actual broadcast of a concert vs. the normal style of musical number usually seen in the show. The effects from the lighting, lasers, to stage fog are very impressive and look fantastic!

The Magic Inside

Well, here it is: the big number! Many people were waiting all season for this song. This might be the best song of the series thus far, and definitely the most beautiful. It's simple, and is not anywhere near the most complicated song in terms of its instrumentation. However, that is what makes it great. A fantastic piano part, mixed with Lena Hall's breathtaking vocals makes this one something special, and something only this series could pull off. Seriously, would you hear something like this on any other animated (or, for that matter, even live-action) show currently on television?

Amy Keating Rogers stated that the song was a homage to Lady Gaga's acoustic versions of her songs. In many ways, from the lyrics and topic, to the melody and style of the song itself, the song also bears much resemblance to Christina Perri's song "Human." (Where the chorus' lyrics are "but I'm only human," very similar to "I am just a pony.") That song builds up with more production and percussion as well, more like how Daniel Ingram stated this song was originally produced.

"The Magic Inside" begins in its simplest form: just Rara playing the piano and delivering a smooth, satisfying vocal performance. Strings are slowly layered on top of this throughout the song, but never overtake it. The vocals and piano remain the focus, with the rest backing them up and providing additional emotional punch.

One thing that didn't come through as clearly in the camprip in the echo-y hall from the Comic Con showing was the wonderful arpeggios during the chorus, especially at its end, as well as the string backing during the second verse. And enough credit cannot be given to Lena Hall, who just blows away this song's vocals. It's quite an honor to the show to have a talent such as herself deliver such a number. If this is what Ingram is able to produce for the show, then let's see what he has in store for the movie with a full orchestra!

Equestria, the Land I Love (Reprise)

And finally, just when you think the episode is over: surprise final song! It's a reprise of the Equestria anthem we heard in the flashback earlier. This time, it's fully orchestrated and includes Apple Bloom, Sweetie Belle, and Scootaloo singing along as well. There isn't a better way to end Amy Keating Roger's final episode; we'll miss you!





"Equestria, the Land I Love"

Equestria, the land I love
A land of harmony
Our flag does wave from high above
For ponykind to see

Equestria, a land of friends
Where ponykind do roam
They say true friendship never ends
Equestria, my home

"The Spectacle"

Time for the spectacle
Time for the show
The lights are bright
And the colors glow

I'm not just anypony
I think you know
The time is now
It's about to blow

Razzle dazzle
Glitz and glam
Turn it all up
It's a spectacle

Razzle dazzle
Glitz and glam
Turn it all up
It's a spectacle

Give me more
Razzle dazzle
Glitter eyes, big surprise
Lights, cameras

Razzle dazzle
Glitz and glam
Turn it all up
It's a spectacle

Hear the applause
Here to impress
Not just a pony
I am the Countess

"The Magic Inside"

I'm here to show you who I am
Throw off the veil, it's finally time
There's more to me than glitz and glam
And now I feel my stars align

For I had believed what I was sold
I did all the things that I was told
But all that has changed,
and now I'm bold
'Cause I know

That I am just a pony
I make mistakes from time to time
But now I know the real me
And put my heart out on the line
And let the magic in my heart stay true
Just like the magic inside of you

And now I see those colors
Right before my eyes
I hear my voice so clearly
And I know that it is right

They thought I was weak
but I am strong
They sold me the world
but they were wrong
And now that I'm back, I still belong
'Cause I know

That I am just a pony
I make mistakes from time to time
But now I know the real me
And put my heart out on the line
And let the magic in my heart stay true
Just like the magic inside of you

The Cutie Re-Mark

Starlight Glimmer is back, and seeks revenge on Twilight Sparkle for ruining her perfect little village. Utilizing a modified version of Starswirl's time spells, she travels back to the sonic rainboom and stops Rainbow Dash from performing it. This has catastrophic effects for the Mane 6 and Equestria's futures. It's up to Twilight and Spike to convince Starlight to stop, and return back to the correct future.

Score

Reoccurring themes and character motifs are one of Friendship is Magic's strongest suits, and something William Anderson and Kelly Davidson deliver week in and week out. However, there hasn't been an episode score-wise that uses them as much or as well as they have in "The Cutie Re-Mark." In addition to reprising numerous themes from this season, as Twilight travels through more or less different two-parters from seasons past, motifs from those past episodes are reprised in spades.

The finale begins with Twilight practicing a speech in front of Spike, and with an immediate theme drop of the "Princess Twilight Sparkle" motif. In "Sonic Rainboom," Twilight delivers her lecture about Cutie Mark Magic. The track begins with another motif from season 4 and we enter the lecture hall. After Twilight talks about each of her friends, a brief reprise of "The Magic of Friendship" motif makes an appearance.

The theme drops intensify starting in the next track, "Starlight's Return." As Twilight and Spike discuss Starlight Glimmer, her motif is reprised. This, of course, made its first appearance in the season 5 premiere. The theme continues to appear as they enter Twilight's castle, where the score then takes a quick dark turn as Starlight makes her first appearance and casts her spell. This ominous theme with the choir and chimes was first used in the season 5 premiere in the track "The Cutie Mark Vault / 'It's a Trap!'" as Starlight's plan in that

episode begins to take shape.

The next track, "Back in Time / Connection Lost" has some serious musical callbacks. Not only is there a recreation of an entire scene from "The Cutie Mark Chronicles," the entire awesome score for Rainbow Dash is is also brought back. After Starlight interferes with Rainbow's past, the score takes a much darker, gloomy tone as the lack of the Rainboom affects each of the Mane 6's pasts.

Twilight and Spike arrive in alternate future #1 in "A Somber Reality." As Twilight explains things, another theme is reprised; this one is a piece of the Part 1 recap from the second part of the season 3 premiere "The Crystal Empire." This is, of course, very fitting being what world they have entered: on where Sombra has returned successfully and is waging war on Equestria. At the end of the track, the melancholy version of the "Magic of Friendship" motif is used.

The score's intensity really begins to pick up in "King Sombra's Rise." King Sombra is back, and he returns complete with his motif! The horn-driven score used for him in this track is the same that was used back in the season 3 premiere as he was returning there. It hasn't been reused since, and it's nice to hear it reprised again. As the battle commences, another piece of score from the season 3 premiere is reprised again. This string ensemble-driven score appeared in the track "Not a Claw, Spike" in the "Crystal Empire" episode, and was also used in "The Tatzlwurm" from season 4's "Three's a Crowd," and "Twittermite Invasion" from season 5's "Bloom and Gloom." When Rainbow Dash makes her awesome appearance in the scene, she's greeted with an awesome guitar riff.

Part two of the episode begins with alternate future #2 and Zecora, who leads a tribe of former Ponyvillians in a rebel village. She brings with her a pretty badass version of her usual score. As she explains how time streams work, a stunningly beautiful piece of score driven by strings and choir plays.

First King Sombra, and now Queen Chrysalis returns, and just like Sombra, she brings her score from all the way back in season 2! As she transforms back to her true form, we are greeting with the changing music that was first used in season 2's "A Canterlot Wedding" near the end

of part 2 where she finally reveals herself. The score that follows as she monologues and more changelings reveal themselves is also the score that follows her reveal in "A Canterlot Wedding."

After another failed battle with Starlight, Twilight and Spike are pulled into alternate future #3. They are quickly greeted by timberwolves which reprise their motif from their last appearance in season 3's "Spike At Your Service" and the track "Crying Timberwolf." When Luna makes her appearance at the end of the track, the score used is from season 4's "Princess Twilight Sparkle" and the track "Luna's Banishment Suite."

And now, the series has come full-circle as Nightmare Moon is back, and reigns over all of Equestria. While the score here isn't directly lifted from season 1's premiere, Nightmare Moon's instrumentation remains the same as her appearance there and in Season 4's premiere. As Twilight escapes back into the past, the action theme that made its first appearance in season 4's premiere in the track "Saving Twilight & The Tree" is used. This theme also made another appearance this season during the final battle in "Do Princesses Dream of Magic Sheep?".

Starlight Glimmer finally opens up about her motivations and her past in "Starlight and Sunburst," and the score turns more emotional. As Sunburst ditches Starlight, a sad version of her motif plays, before she has another emotional outburst and her ominous theme returns.

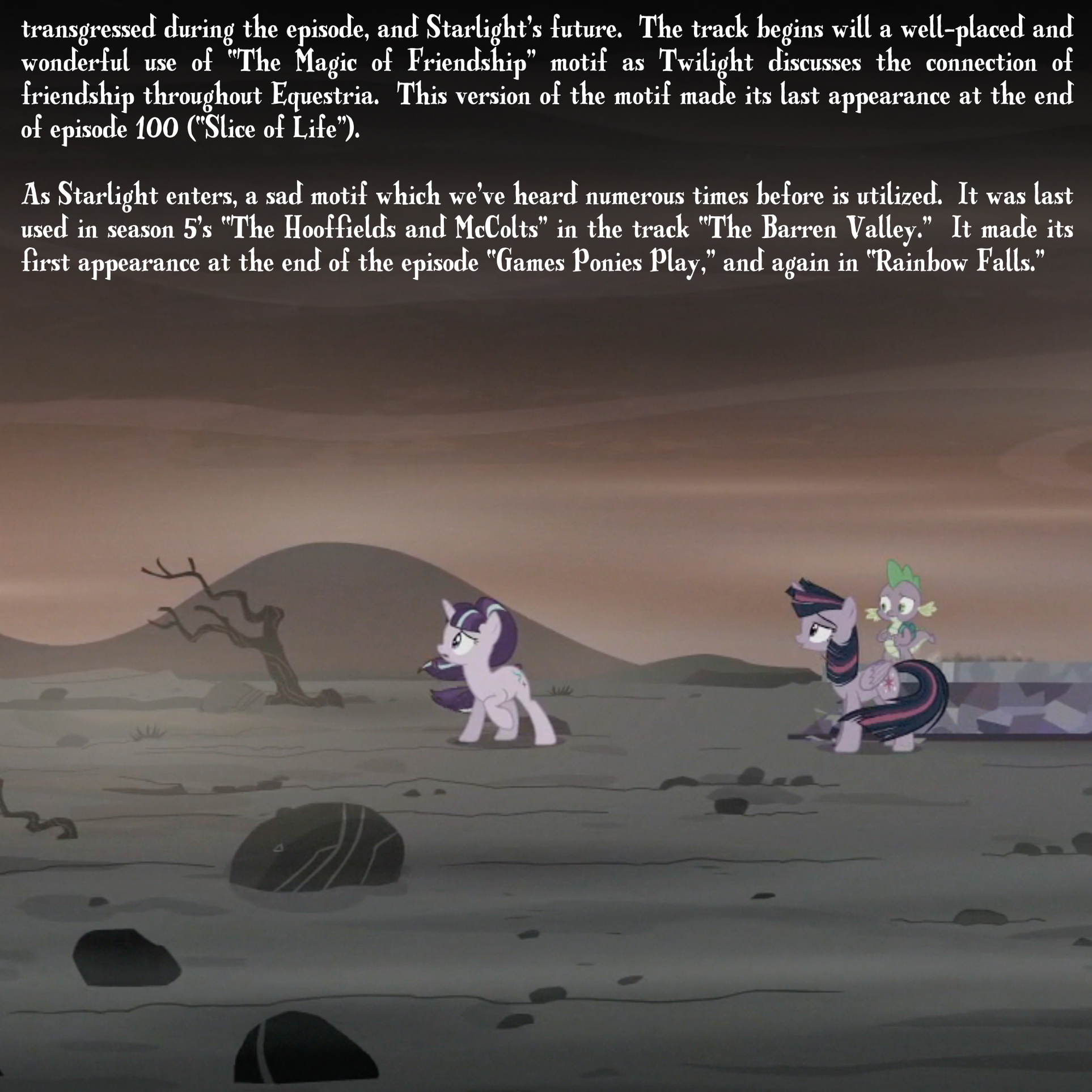
In "Starlight's Redemption," the episode and score reaches its emotional climax. As Twilight speaks to her, another theme that hasn't been used in a while appears. This emotional theme was first (and last) used in the finale of season 3's "The Crystal Empire" in the track "Restoration of the Crystal Empire" as the Crystal Heart defeats Sombra. It works really well here.

As the spell disappears, Equestria returns to normal, and as the rest of the Mane 6 appear, a motif that first appeared at the beginning of this season's premiere at the end of the track "The Call of the Cutie" is utilized. This theme also made subsequent appearances in "A Restful Sleep" from "Princess Spike" and "Shining's Room" from "The One Where Pinkie Pie Knows."

The episode's score concludes in "The Friendship Connection." The Mane 6 discuss what has

transgressed during the episode, and Starlight's future. The track begins will a well-placed and wonderful use of "The Magic of Friendship" motif as Twilight discusses the connection of friendship throughout Equestria. This version of the motif made its last appearance at the end of episode 100 ("Slice of Life").

As Starlight enters, a sad motif which we've heard numerous times before is utilized. It was last used in season 5's "The Hooffields and McColts" in the track "The Barren Valley." It made its first appearance at the end of the episode "Games Ponies Play," and again in "Rainbow Falls."



Friends Are Always There For You

Much like the season opener, there's only one song for this episode, with the rest filled with tons of story and amazing score. However, the final song doesn't disappoint, and gives Starlight another chance to have a solo, this time also singing with the Mane 6. The song itself is about how friendships, like shown in the episode, have the power to change your life and others.

The song starts out as fairly standard Friendship is Magic fare, with plenty of woodwinds and mandolin. As we reach Twilight Sparkle's solo part, the song slowly begins to pick up with some more bass, additional percussion, and strings. After this the bridge to the first chorus is reached, the rest of the Mane 6 chorus joins in, and the number really begins to pick up and find its original footing. This brief bridge ends in a fermata on the last note as the Mane 6 and Starlight jump into the air (although the song begins again on-beat, so not really a fermata. But If this was being performed live, it would likely be used in the notation).

We then reach the chorus, which begins arguably the best part of the song. The melody and lyrics of this part are super-catchy and upbeat, helped by the bass and fantastic percussion parts, as well as the always great harmonies from the Mane 6. As we enter the final parts of the song, some great horns and eventually trumpets are added to continue to build the song until its end. After a fantastic buildup to the final note, the instrumentation silences and we're left with beautiful piano arpeggios and chimes. Mixed with the group shot of the main cast, this is a wonderful way to end the episode, and the season.

"Friends are Always There for You"

I never thought that I
would find a place
To step right in and start again
I never thought that I could just begin
Right where I left off
and make a friend

Don't ever think that it
might be too late
You don't have to wait
There's no mistakes with the
friends you make
A friendship's only made of
what you bring
And if you do it right
you can do anything

Just use your eyes
This time, no lies
Just don't disguise
Who you are inside

Because your friends are
always there for you
You don't have to be the same
for friendship to be true
Because your friends are
always there for you
Around the world, it's still the same
Together you have more to gain
There's nothing that a friend won't do

Everywhere you go
Friendship there will grow
When you find it, it's the key
Friends can change the world, you see

Everywhere you go
Friendship there will grow
When you find it, it's the key
Friends can change the world
Friends can change the world
Friends can change the world, you see



Soundtrack Credits



Music
Daniel Ingram

Score
William Anderson
Daniel Ingram

Orchestrations & Arrangements
Caleb Chan
Kelly Davidson
Dave Corman
Trevor Hoffman

Lyrics
Daniel Ingram
Joanna Lewis
Kristine Songco
Josh Haber
Cindy Morrow
Amy Keating Rogers

Ripped and Remastered by RainShadow


See You for Season 6
&
Legend of Everfree!