

Mark Isham

'Bobby'

MGM/The Weinstein Co.

Release Date: Nov. 17 (limited)



In regards to scoring 'Bobby,' there were several things the music had to do. First of all, we had to establish the music and themes for Bobby (Sen. Robert F. Kennedy). RFK is an overriding presence in the film. We all know what happens, but very early in the film, we're introduced to a large number of characters that are part of the film, which takes place over 24 hours. So, the job of the music is not only to identify the emotional and philosophical essence of Bobby himself, but to also reflect the very personal experience of each one of the characters that we get to know during the telling of the story. The music introduces you to these characters and then reflects on each one of their experiences through the film.

"The first job was to find a theme that fit with the ideas that RFK was presenting at the time. ... Once that theme was established, we used an orchestra to create an emotionally epic theme. There are moving speeches by Bobby Kennedy, and the score serves as the backdrop for those. He had a very strong philosophical view that he was

expressing, so the theme had to be large enough to take that, and it also had to be able to ... be intimately tragic at the same time.

"The score touches on almost all the main characters and their emotionally pivotal moments as they head into the later part of the evening. ... The structure of the score is that there is a theme that comes out of the hotel, and then once you get to know each character, they pick up their own music. There is an 11-minute ending where we see how our characters have experienced this awful event. It was quite something to score emotionally, as well as the fact that this is a story in which everyone knows what happens at the end of the film. Once the shooting takes place, RFK's voice carries you out at the end of the film, and there is an emotional dialogue between the speech and the score. The score has to reflect the loss, the tragedy, the human predicament and, at the same time, reflect with what Bobby Kennedy is actually saying to us, the hope that he is offering."

— Ada Guerin