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THE AELITA PROJECT

This project will serve the dual purpose of providing a new musical score for the famed Soviet 1924 silent science-fiction film Aelita and to showcase the celebrated Soviet 1920 musical instrument, the Theremin. Project director Dennis James has created The Theremin Trio to feature his live film accompaniment performance at the piano and Theremin with two other musicians playing traditional and electric violin plus synthesizer. A beautifully clear archive 35mm print of the feature length film will be supplied by the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley for a restricted series of selected performances.

Aelita, with its sets and costumes designed in the Constructivist manner, received more publicity during its initial release than any other Soviet film until Potemkin. Film director Protazanov is considered to have been the best of the Russian pioneer film-makers and an eclectic master of all the resources of the silent cinema. The Theremin, an invention from the Russian Constructivist period, was the first marketed electronic synthesizer and was produced in the USA by RCA in a limited 1929 production run. The instrument was designed for and initially used in concert performances, particularly by Leopold Stokowski and The Philadelphia Orchestra, but is best recalled today in Hollywood film scores of the 1940's and 50's.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Musical Score Research & Development: \$1000

Composer's Commission Costs: \$1000

Preliminary Rehearsal Costs: \$1000

Performance Fee- Per Person, Per Screening: \$500 plus contingent round trip air travel and \$75 per diem for 3 days.

Instrument Shipping: At cost, circa \$500 for all instruments per performance.

Film use and shipping: Costs to be determined.

The total proposed budget for music preparations and first screening performance in Seattle is \$6500. Subsequent performances are slated to cost circa \$3500 for the musician component structured as above, depending on the actual air travel and film costs.