

# MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Creator/Executive producer of "Malcolm in the Middle," I've had the pleasure of working with Charles Sydnor for six years, both as a composer and music editor. It is impossible for me to overstate the creative contribution Charles has made to our show. If you watch any episode of "Malcolm," you can see the energy, humor, and emotion Charles has brought to it, using all kinds of musical styles and genres.

The post-production on our show has always been incredibly demanding. The sheer volume of music (and music edits) easily puts most one-hour shows to shame. As a music editor, Charles is creative, meticulous, and fast. Both his wide-ranging musical knowledge and his easy-going personality made the process much easier for me.

I have very strong but inarticulate feelings about the timing of music cues, and during all of our review sessions and mixes, Charlie has been very patient and helpful, sitting through my endless "let's start it ten frames earlier," or "eight - no - seven frames later!" before showing me what I really wanted was a smoother volume change or even a different cue altogether.

As a composer and arranger, Charles was put in the very difficult position of following the enormously creative and well-respected rock group They Might be Giants. It's a testament to his talent that Charles stepped into their (giant, I guess) shoes without missing a beat. Many long-time watchers of the show actually felt it was an improvement. Certainly, most of my favorite moments in the series were the musical numbers Charles put together and the montages sequences he scored.

Most artists of his talent are not nearly as collaborative. In thirty years in the business, I've had my share of composers whose "scoring" consisted of a dozen identical three-second guitar stings, who then rolled their eyes or had outright tantrums if I asked them to try something more ambitious. Charles' willingness to adjust or even throw out perfectly good work, often based on nothing more specific than "I'm not feeling it so much" speaks volumes about both his work ethic and his commitment to excellence.

Do yourself a favor, and watch his reel. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me anytime.

Sincerely,



Linwood Boomer

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