

Punisher, The



Composer : Carlo Siliotto

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Total duration : 65:37

Reviewed by: Andrew Keech

Based on one of Marvel Comics favourite non-super power characters, Frank Castle is **The Punisher**. He is an undercover FBI agent whose wife and young son are killed by the criminal Saint family. Castle steps outside the law to wreak vengeance, becoming judge, jury and executioner in an effort to avenge his family. The dark and violent film comes with a dark yet exciting score from Carlo Siliotto. The composer has almost seventy scores on his CV (mostly for films made in his native Italy) from the past twenty years that include films as varied as **Fluke**, **Sweetiecakes**, **Honolulu Baby** and the TV mini series **Julius Caesar**.

From the first bar of the first cue Carlo Siliotto introduces a wonderful, simple theme that is almost a motif. Played initially on the trumpet, the theme is beguiling and very memorable and is superb skeleton that supports the body of the score. At the dark and sinister moments, like 'The Massacre', the score reflects shades of Danny Elfman's **Darkman** or **Batman**, but the beautiful theme produces a softer, exciting edge. As the score develops, the music includes more exciting cues like 'Elevator / Headache' and 'She Took The Train / Punishment', but there are still sad and dark moments like eerie 'Killing A Best Friend' and the heartbreaking 'Castle's Loneliness'. The score concludes with a brilliant, but short reprise of the main theme. The album concludes with two vocals; J.C.Loader sings a poignant ballad entitled 'Jealous One' and Peter Dvorsky performs 'La Donna E' Mobile'.

Carlo Siliotto's music for **The Punisher** is dramatic and exciting, but masterfully exploits the dark and sinister atmosphere, while using the brilliant trumpet led theme to draw the listener back to excitement and heroics. For the majority of the cues this combination works well, with just a few drifting too far to the dark side. This is an intense, enjoyable score with a theme that can be hummed for weeks.