



How-To Secrets of Meshing Lyrics and Scenes

Do you want to leave a lasting impression on your viewers? In this column I'm opening the toolbox of video-making to show you one of the biggest tools for making your village video. We know that music can create a convincing atmosphere for your setting, help tell your story and strike an emotional chord, all of which are elements that will have your audience wanting more.

Incorporating music into your village videos allows the audience to connect emotionally to your characters and their situation, and you, the video maker, to reinforce your story and/or message.

Before we dive in, did you enjoy TVC's VillageFest 2022 as much as I did?



Photo by Lisa Soter

Be sure to check out all the other topnotch and timely columns on TheVillageCollector.com – the always interesting "*Just So You Know (JSYK)*" by David Spears, Brian Vaill's "*The Train Station,*" Thea Heyink's "*The Creation Station,*" "*Phil & Sue's Village*" (from England!), "From Italy: Villaging in Europe" by Peppe Apuleo (fascinating!), "Scratchbuilt" by Alan K. Rogers, "Villagers' Café" for guest columns, "Christmas Corner" by Art Kilmer (NEW!), and "*Coach is Here*" by webmaster Bill Channell.

Please keep visiting the Village Videos page and watch, watch, watch. The 2022 Village Video Hall of Fame nominees will be posted on December 23rd. From December 26th to January 15th, you can choose the Top 4 to be inducted as the 4th Class of the TVC Village Video Hall of Fame! Guess what? You can vote once a day, too! Please, vote often and daily. So many ideas, so little time... and not enough money.



Photo by Joanna Villegas

If the lyrics of a song used in a film or video match what is happening in the moving images, our brain will not only remember that special scene but also will help us bond deeper

with what is going on as we look for associations from a possible past.

The visuals in an audiovisual project trigger our capability to pay attention to what's happening, but when melody, lyrics and melodic elements come in, they sort of create this hypnotic effect, making the audience get involved to a much deeper extent. In a wider general sense, music and musical elements not only help set the tone for a video's personality but also to create bonds with the audience.

I learned this from watching the village videos made by pammyj100, the Queen Muse village videoist. Suddenly, you're inside her village, a participant, a player, and looking for more. This is nearly impossible from the vantage point of the moving flyover view – little to no details, minimal lingering within a vignette of the tiny villagers.

There are a few hard things to pull this off. First, you need a song with some ***lyrics that describe a scene, invoke a picture***.

I hunt all year for new-to-me Christmas songs and different arrangements. I usually have 3 to 5 songs (or partial songs) in my annual village video. I look for songs with lyrics that I can bring to life with the figurines and accessories in vignettes.

I can play music from my iPhone through my car's audio system. I set up a playlist of "candidate songs" in my iPhone's Music app for next year's video, and during the year while driving to and from work I listen and imagine vignette scenes and figurines that I can stage to follow the lyrics. Candidate songs can exit and enter the playlist during the year while I go through my make-up-your-mind process.

The vignettes chosen may or may not actually make it fully staged into my final village display. Sometimes I use just the figurines and a building or two to stage a short scene explicitly for the video.

I often "work backwards" when story-boarding my video. If I have some exciting lyrics to work with, I'll use the song's lyrics to build the storyboard of scenes.

Here is my Christmas village video for 2022.

Claire's Amazing Christmas Video 2022 (15:04)

Jim Peters

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6BZy_sUF4Y&t=123s

And here is the "storyboard" of vignette scenes designed to accompany the song lyrics.

Christmas Lights (Lyrics)	Video Scene
The sun will be goin' down. I'll make my way home, Driving in my icy car listening to the songs on the radio. Johnny Mathis doin' his thing, David Bowie singing with Bing. And I'm wondering what would my song say if the whole world could hear me sing.	Pics of guitar & harmonica players around campfire Moving car (with sprayed ice) Pic of Johnny Mathis album Pic of David Bowie with Bing Crosby Village scenes
Show me those Christmas lights, Set this whole town alive. Let 'em sparkle, let 'em twinkle, Let 'em drive out the darkest night. Let your whole spirit glow, Cast a Christmas shadow on the snow. Let the lights upon these streets remind someone Peace can find its way home.	Clips of Christmas lights, Christmas trees... Christmas shadow on snow pic
There's the old armory, Where they used to sell Christmas trees, But it sits back in the dark behind the sign that says For Lease. But I've got memories, Of the Christmases that used to be. So real they keep me warm as my wheels spin along this icy street.	Pic of guitar & harmonica players around campfire Armory Building – darken photo "For Lease" sign in front
Show me those Christmas lights, Set this whole town alive. Let 'em sparkle, let 'em twinkle, Let 'em drive out the darkest night. Let your whole spirit glow, Cast a Christmas shadow on the	Clip of moving car Pics & clips of Christmas lights, Christmas trees...

snow.
 Let the lights upon these streets
 remind someone
 Peace can find its way home.

How they dazzled up the town.
 I'm just a kid again.
 I guess they'll soon be taken down
 Right when the season ends.
 But they're like an old friend I got to
 see again.
 Gonna welcome them
 Back home again.

Show me those Christmas lights,
 Set this whole town alive.
 Let 'em sparkle, let 'em twinkle,
 Let 'em drive out the darkest night.
 Let your whole spirit glow,
 Cast a Christmas shadow on the
 snow.
 Let the lights upon these streets
 remind someone
 Peace can find its way home.

Green screen video clip of girls
 window shopping
 Man on ladder taking down lights
 (X couldn't do)
 Video clips of lights

Clips of Christmas lights, Christmas
 trees...

More lights

Pic of guitar & harmonica players
 around campfire



**Porcelain Christmas Village
 (Lyrics)**

I know a place where Christmas

Video Scene

Semi-overall village views

<p> dreams come true. Everyone is happy; no one is blue. The snow is not yellow. It doesn't feel cold. Santa brings you presents even when you get old. There's not a chance of fighting or war. There is peace and harmony forever more. The cocoa is steaming but it will not burn you. Everything is perfect and nothing concerns you. </p> <p> It's the porcelain Christmas village. Everything is perfect. Everything is right. It's the porcelain Christmas village. A Christmas utopia, morning, noon, and night. Nothing can go wrong. Nothing can fail. Everything is perfect to the smallest detail. It's the porcelain Christmas village, Where your Christmas dreams are real. </p> <p> Christmas songs echo from the cathedral. There is no mourning, no crying, no evil. There is no sickness, not even Covid. Everyone is loved, and loves you is chosen. The horse carriage rolls past, the children are skating. Climate change is solved. There's no more debating. The Christmas tree stands tall In the town square. Here in this village everyone has healthcare. </p> <p> It's the porcelain Christmas village. Everything is perfect. Everything is right. It's the porcelain Christmas village. A Christmas utopia, morning, noon, </p>	<p> Video clip of steaming cocoa Green screen video clip of girls dancing </p> <p> Very detailed shots Green screen video clip of girls dancing </p> <p> Church window nativity scene Church scenes </p> <p> Horse carriage rolls past skating rink video clip Town tree pic </p> <p> Church scenes </p>
--	---

and night.
Nothing can go wrong.
Nothing can fail.
Everything is perfect to the smallest detail.
It's the porcelain Christmas village,
Where your Christmas dreams are real.

But why are these only
Dreams, you might wonder.
Why is there poverty, pestilence,
hunger?
Building a porcelain village is
painless,
But fixing the real world is hard and
takes ages.
This Christmas season don't just
dream about it.
Get out there. Fix it. From the
mountain tops, shout it.
You can build it, make it, change
every new way.
Make the world better.
The first step is do it.

Make a real-world Christmas village.
Where everything is perfect.
Everything is right.
Make a real-world Christmas village,
A Christmas utopia, morning, noon,
and night.
When something goes wrong, when
something fails,
Try to make it better.
Love can prevail.
Make a real-world Christmas village.
Make a real-world Christmas village.
Make a real-world Christmas village.
Where your Christmas dreams are
real.

Pics of poverty, pestilence, hunger

Just Do It caption



Shrunk Down for Christmas (Lyrics)

Christmas today is nothing very special,
 Because life is moving too fast.
 I'd prefer spending Christmas in the 50s,
 Loving the whole season in the little small town.
 There is something I think is so nostalgic.
 I wish this kind of place would still exist.
 I would visit my mental Christmas village.
 Hey, I think I'll use this laser to shrink down!
 So, flip that switch and shrink me right on down,
 And don't forget to shrink the lights down, too.
 That's better.
 Now I'm strolling through my Christmas town.
 So, don't forget to leave the lights on so I can see what bakery pies on.
 Window shopping down main street Christmas village,
 Goes to show my idea was the best!
 I keep feeling that vintage Christmas

Video Scenes

Video clip of city too fast

JP showing village to visitors

Pic of laser

Video clips of laser shooting

Green screen clip of landing in village

Green screen clip of downtown stroll

<p>spirit, And there is no way it could ever end. There's a salesman selling Christmas trees, And how nice out front a group of carolers, too. I'll walk up and strike a 50s chat – Oh, wait! They are all just resin, face casts, lifeless, and sold by the Bradford Exchange. Now I'm sprinting throughout this creepy village! Why oh why will no business let me in? I'm alone. Please let me leave this phony village. Honey, help! I shrunk myself. Help!</p>	<p>Pic of tree sales with carolers out front</p> <p>Green screen clip of realization and agast</p> <p>Green screen clip of sprinting downtown</p> <p>Green screen clips of waving, yelling for help</p>
---	---



<p>Porcelain Village (Lyrics)</p> <p>This is a song about a man who was born stuck inside his body of porcelain, the worstest of luck, It started out a few short years ago, As a sampler rolled around and brought the snow. I was unboxed into a world of the unknown, Under a Christmas tree with village</p>	<p>Video Scenes</p> <p>Pic of D56 Dressed for Success man</p> <p>Video clip of unboxing D56 man Video clip of placing him into village</p>
--	---

lights aglow.

I was taken aback by all the sights
and wonders,

Ready to explore, but I could not
move my arms.

And I realized the fate brought upon
me,

To be stuck inside a world I cannot
roam.

And this is where I saw you in the
distance,

The most beautiful sight of all the
world I'd seen.

The joy quickly faded when I realized
That I'd never get the chance to tell
you what I mean.

I wish my heart was harder but it's
fragile as my skin.

I feel weak; I'm not a strong man.
I'm made of porcelain!

In a porcelain land, in a porcelain
world,

I am a poor porcelain man in love
with a beautiful porcelain girl.

Starting this Christmas eve how I
wonder what you feel.

Do you think of me the same and
wish somehow this life was real?

My hope became as fragile as our
village,

Year after year, as I could not speak
my mind.

Forced to be stuck with such
potential,

In a love so meant to be, you can't
mine.

Your beauty never faded while in
storage,

And I hated all the months we spent
apart.

Pushed up in the darkness of the
attic,

I dreamed of us together, forever,
alive with beating hearts.

I wish that this could happen.

You don't know what I'd give

Just to feel your touch,

And feel your love,

Pic of man in village scene

Pic of man seeing D56 First Class
Flight woman

Pic of man looking at woman

Pics of man & woman together

Video clip of woman being put back
into her box

Video clip dream scene of man &
woman revolving around each other

And feel like a human.

I wish my heart was harder but it's
fragile as my skin.
I feel weak; I'm not a strong man.
I'm made of porcelain!

In a porcelain land, in a porcelain
world,
I am a poor porcelain man in love
with a beautiful porcelain girl.
Starting this Christmas eve how I
wonder what you feel.
Do you think of me the same and
wish somehow this life was real?

In a porcelain land, in a porcelain
world,
I am a poor porcelain man in love
with a beautiful porcelain girl.
Starting this Christmas eve how I
wonder what you feel.
Do you think of me the same and
wish somehow this life was real?

So if you're living in a frozen state,
And you can move, then you gotta
move.
Cause I'd do anything to break out of
my stance
If I had a single chance,
I would take it, never forsake it.
Rather live to be bold than be stuck
in the mold,
Of never grabbing the shovel
But wishing for the gold.
Somebody, please help me break
free...
Somebody, anybody help me break
free...
I would do anything, just help me
break free...
Help me break free...
Help me break free...
Crash!!!

Man watching woman looking at
nativity scene
Man and woman together
Video clip of man starting on
sidewalk...

Hand moving him progressively
toward edge...

...over the edge!
Pic of child crying



We Need Christmas (Lyrics)

Lights that twinkle red and green
 Charlie Brown on the TV screen
 Hugs from friends and family
 That's what we need right now
 Buttons on a winter coat
 Truck tires down a snowy road
 That's the sound of coming home
 That's what we need to right now
 This world could use a little healing
 Our hearts could surely use
 something to believe in.

We need Christmas
 Now more than ever to bring us
 together.
 We need Christmas.
 Come on December help us
 remember
 The joy, the peace and the hope that
 love can bring.
 Oh, we need Christmas...

Video Scenes

Clip of red/green twinkling lights
 Pic of Charlie Brown on TV
 Pic of family hugging

Clip of truck on road
 Pics of village home

Pic of Jackie's Gifts window (tiny
 village inside)
 Scroll the credits



The second hardest part is getting the scene to match the timing of the specific lyrics. That's where having a mix of photos and video clips helps. Usually, I move forward to a photo (or set of photos) and manually adjust the length of time the photo is shown – either adding or subtracting down to half-seconds – so that the lyrics synchronize with the image on the screen. Sometimes you can trim a video clip length, but you can't add length.

I've handed you the keys to the secret. It's up to you to gain proficiency with your chosen video editing app or program. Make one song videos for practice. It will come more easily after that.

In my next column on The Village Collector, I don't know what I'm going to write about. I'm out of words for today and I'll try to do better next time.

Questions, comments and/or suggestions are always welcome. You can contact me at: jpetersgolfpro@gmail.com, 419 Washington Avenue, Newport, KY 41071.