

Pitch Deck

Working Title: *She's Got a Way*

Written By: *Michael Seaman*

Logline:

In a high-stakes competition for the rights to Billy Joel's catalog, a stage-frightened pianist, a violinist drowning in alcohol, and a cellist torn between veterinary school and music must master the art of classical performance and original songwriting—before time, talent, or doubt pull them apart.

Synopsis:

When Jason Strenski, a shy barback with stage fright and a photographic ear, discovers a once in a lifetime competition for the rights to Billy Joel's catalog, he recruits two unlikely allies. Aaron, a charismatic but pressure-ridden violinist, and Lucy, a gifted cellist torn between vet school and music. As the trio trains in classical performance and original songwriting, they must overcome sabotage, self-doubt, and fractured ambitions to prove their worth—not just to the judges, but to themselves. Set against the backdrop of New York's underground music scene, *She's Got a Way* is a coming of age drama about legacy, friendship, and the fight to earn your place in music history.

Thematic Focus:

- Young friendship, unspoken love
- Music and memory
- The price of obsession

Characters:

JASON STRENSKI (Main - Pianist)

- 20's, barback/busser, self taught musician with hyperthymesia.
- Represents both **self doubt and obsession**.
- Deeply tied into his mother's love for music.
- Secretly enters the competition while hiding his true talent.

LUCY (Supporting - Cellist)

- 20's, an undergraduate science student, cellist, close friend.
- Represents **friendship and love**.
- Lost the desire to play music after a childhood of forceful training.

AARON (Supporting - Violinist)

- 20's, Korean, a music student, alcoholic, and comic relief.
- Represents **passion and ego**.

- Overly dedicated to his craft. Uses alcohol as a release from reality.

HENRY (Supporting)

- 70's, African American, a jazz club owner, band member, and mentor.
- Jason's personal music instructor and father figure.

ALEXA RAY JOEL (Supporting)

- Plays herself, poised and guarded, a rival competitor, and masterful performer.
- Represents the **weight and complexity of legacy**.

SOFIA (Supporting)

- Proctor of the Billy Joel competition and judge.
- Represents the **pressure of perfection and gatekeepers of the music world**.
- Mysterious background, but deep understanding of everything - music.

Why the story works without Billy? (But is stronger with him):

1. A classical framework.

The rewritten script uses more classical music to explore the discipline and mastery behind the scenes.

2. From fictional to impossible.

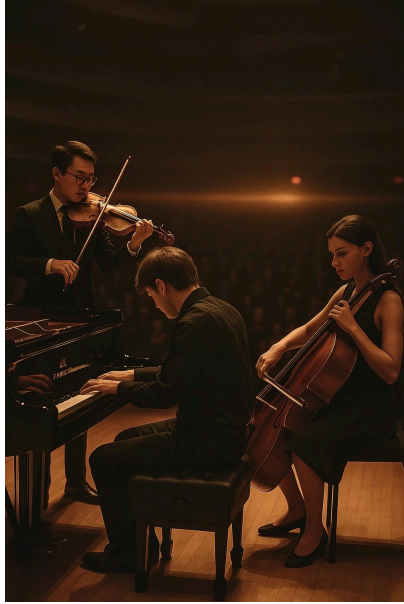
The story can stand on its own: an underdog, two friends, and a mysterious music contest. But the story soars when Billy is involved—because it's not just about a **fictional dream**, but about chasing a **real, impossible one**. If a fictional singer-songwriter was used, the story would highlight their success and following. With Billy, there's no need.

3. Anchored by his own journey.

Themes of self doubt, love, alcohol, creative burnout, and public expectations. These themes can be rich with any artist, real or fictional, but especially with Billy.

Vision For The Film:

AI Generated



Settings





▶ Kiki's Delivery Service - A Town With An Ocean View // GRISSINI PROJECT

▶ Howl's Moving Castle - Merry go round of Life cover by Grissini Project

- Musicians portraying actors! Not actors portraying musicians!
- Tone: *Yesterday* meets *The Color's Within*.
- Music Style: Blend of classical, Billy Joel, and layered original compositions.
- Setting:
 - NYC, jazz club, Juilliard, subway platforms, college living, auditoriums, recording studios, and winter landscapes.

Target Audience:

- Fans of music dramas (La La Land, Whiplash, Yesterday, Bohemian Rhapsody, etc.)
- Fans of Billy Joel, classical music, and underdog stories.
- Prime for streaming, award circuits, and music focused festivals.
- Gen Z and Millennials who romanticize art.

Comparable Projects:

- Yesterday (The Beatles tribute with fictional premise)
- The Colors Within (friendship and starting a band)
- Whiplash (musicians under pressure)
- Rocketman (musician biopic with emotional surrealism)

Next Steps:

- Final script ready.
- Seeking representation
 - Literary or Talent
 - Development support
 - Path to music licensing
- 100% committed to contacting Billy Joel, Alexa Joel, and UMPG to secure permission, but story is airtight without it

Michael Seaman

- michaelcman18@gmail.com
- 2623849303
- michaelseamancreative.com