# Christmas in Ponyville
## Pony Christmas Light Contest

## Contest Description:

Take your favorite MLP FiM song either from the show or fan made and synchronize the song to Christmas lights. My house has 25,000+ Christmas lights that are computer controlled using Light-O-Rama software.  Your task is to create a musical sequence with the pony song of your choice and make the lights on my house dance to your favorite pony song.  Information how to do this is on next page.  After you complete you sequence, submit it to me where I will upload to my house for filming.  Videos will be posted on youtube and/or christmasinponville.com.  All submitted sequences will be voted on.

## Contest Prizes:

A **welovefine.com** pony t-shirt of your choice for **1$^{st}$, 2$^{nd}$, and 3$^{rd}$ place**.

**Depending on the number of submissions**
Must be at least 3 submissions to award 1$^{st}$ place.
Must be at least 5 submissions to award 2$^{nd}$ place.
Must be at least 7 submissions to award 3$^{rd}$ place.

## Contest Rules

**Since this is my way of contributing back to the community.**
**I reserve the right to modify contest as needed.**

Voting will very depending on how many submissions I get.  My plan right now is to upload all of the videos to the site and do a popular vote.  If there are many submissions, the popular vote may simply narrow down the field to the top 5 best sequences.  At that point another vote may occur or I may try to see if I can get some of the voice actors, writers, etc. to pick the 1$^{st}$, 2$^{nd}$, 3$^{rd}$ out of the top 5.

Must Submit Completed Sequence by
**Dec 30, 2012**

Voting will occur sometime after that depending on how long it takes me to video and edit all the sequences submitted.

**Email completed Sequence files and audio files to:**
[2012contest@christmasinponyville.com](mailto:2012contest@christmasinponyville.com)
Feel free to email questions too

**Make sure to include all files within the sequences and audio folders that reference the name of your sequence.  Best to zip files up into a single zipped folder.**

**Please include your Name/Handle, Email Address, Song Title and original Song Creator.**

# How to Sequence 101

First you need to download the Light-O-Rama software so you can create a musical sequence that can control my Christmas lights.  Visit Light-O-Rama's website to download the latest software.
http://www.lightorama.com/downloads/3.8.0/LOR-3.8.0.exe

After installing open up the Light-O-Rama Sequence Editor

It will ask about registering, say no, or not now.  Software will load in demo mode which gives you virtually everything you need.  Demo mode just prevents the software from actually sending commands to Light-o-Rama control boxes.  You don't have any so it works just fine for sequence building.  When I upload your sequence to my PC, it will control the lights since my software is activated.

You will also be asked to create the default folder for you to store light-o-rama sequence files, etc.  Just use the default location.  Documents\Light-O-Rama

After it creates the default directory you want to download my sequence template.  It has all the things that you can control on my house pre-set and has an animation template so you can have a mockup of how things look while you are sequencing the song.

www.christmasinponyville.com/LOR/2012/templete2012.zip

Once the file is extracted you will have two folders.

Light-O-Rama
Pictures

Inside the Light-O-Rama folder you will find the files to copy.
The pictures folder simply has pictures of my house that help you identify where each channel in the sequence editor is in real life and allows you to make more sense of the software's animation mock-up.

I've included a sample sequence that I am currently working on "Christmas in Equestia".

Copy the following 2 files to Documents\Light-O-Rama\Audio

Archie.V - Christmas In Equestria.mp3
Archie.V - Christmas In Equestria.mp3.lpx

Copy the rest of the files to Documents\Light-O-Rama\Sequences

Christimas in Equestria.lms
Christimas in Equestria.lms.bak
Christimas in Equestria.lms.lcs
Christimas in Equestria.lms.lsv


Open up the sequence editor again, you can select and open the Christmas in Equestria musical sequence to take a look at how a partially completed one looks like.

**Start your Own Sequence**
Setup and best suggestions for getting started

First dump you song of choice in the Audio folder: Documents\Light-O-Rama\Audio

Open up sequence editor and choose new musical sequence.

Choose audio file.

Under Channel Setup, choose use a saved channel configuration template.  Choose **2012 Channel configuration** frond in the folder: Documents\Light-O-Rama\Sequences

Skip the tapper wizard for now – select don't add any timings.
Choose A tenth of a second as spaced timings.
Uncheck Use a fixed timing grid

Tapper Wizard allows you to tap out the beats, run this from the tools menu.
Check box to insert effects into channel "**Beats**"
Beats is just a blank channel I use to dump the visual queue of beats too.  Helps when timing out events.  Software has a beat wizard that can do the tapper feature automatically by analyzing the audio in the song, but this is disabled in demo mode.  Sorry.  Tapper wizard is almost as good though.

Ok your, about ready to sequence.
Play with the settings under the view menu to see what you like best.
Under view select the animation option to load my mock-up animation of my house.
If you have duel screens it helps a lot.  Put the mock-up on screen 2 while your sequencing to see if what your doing looks good and is timed with the beats.

When sequencing I recommend the setting the play range setting to visible screen.  If it is have trouble with getting the timing right, change the playback speed to ½.

Effects – What you can do with the lights.
Each channel listed in the left column is controllable.
Use the section headers as helpers with timing, make copy the tapper wizard beats from the top channel to the section header channels.  ---Roof--, ---bushes left sided---, etc.
Each channel you can turn on, off, twinkle, shimmer, dim up, dim down, set % intensity.  All lights other then the mini-trees are LED.  If changing the intensity.  20% is where the LEDs are actually dim.  Anything above 40% with LEDs is still pretty bright.

Pretty much every bush, tree, etc. on my house was covered in lights 5 times.  Red, Green, Blue, Multi, White.  Which means you can make each and every bush any of those colors at any point.

I have included some pictures of my house so you can see the layout a bit better and make better sense of the animation mock-up you have.

Pictures can be found in the same zipped folder you downloaded with the Light-O-Rama template/sample files.  Pictures are located in the other folder labeled pictures.

**Good Luck Every Pony and Happy Syncing**

**Sincerely, Fellow Brony**
**CMC-Dash**