Creating Photo Slideshows

There are a number of ways you can create slideshows of photos but if you intend to add music or even an audio commentary, this is not so easy when using standard presentation software such as *PowerPoint*. After all, a photo slideshow is more akin to a video than a boardroom presentation so it is more appropriate to look for video editing software rather than presentation software.

What exactly is a photo sideshow?

It is no more complicated than choosing a series of photos you would like to show together with complimentary music to play whilst your photos are displayed. Generally, there are no hard and fast rules so you can include as many photos as you like and set them to one piece of music or several. You could add a commentary telling people about your content or the background to what they are seeing, or you could include 'photos' containing text – you will begin with one of those to announce the title of your sideshow.

What are Photo-Harmony slideshows?

This is a form of slideshow where still images are skilfully produced and visually progressed in harmony with a suitable soundtrack. The emphasis is on *visual flow* and cohesion rather than a random assortment of individual excellent photographs.

Key aspects of a Photo Harmony presentation include:

- **Visual Progression:** The images must flow in a pleasing, logical sequence, with smooth transitions that link them together effectively.
- **Harmony with Sound:** The images are synchronized with a musical soundtrack. The sound and pictures are expected to start and finish together, using the original ending of the music rather than an abrupt fade-out.
- **Aesthetic Cohesion:** The aim is to create overall harmony in colour, tone, or graphic design, ensuring all elements relate to and complement each other.
- **Focus on the Whole:** The sequence is judged as a single cohesive work, not a mere collection of separate photos.
- **Lack of Commentary:** A script or spoken commentary is not allowed, because the narrative and emotion are conveyed through the visual and audio synergy.

This type of presentation is often used in photographic competitions and exhibitions, such as those held by *The Royal Photographic Society* (RPS). It is a specific type of multimedia presentation that prioritizes the aesthetic interplay between visual elements and music to evoke a specific mood or message. Therefore, if you intend to submit your finished slideshow to audio visual (AV) competitions you should take care to follow these guidelines.

What type of slideshow is allowed in WPS competitions?

You may enter a slideshow of any format because the requirement is simply for a sequence of photographs set to music and Photo Harmony slideshows are allowed of course. Whichever you choose to create you must not include images, titles or text that would identify you as the creator and for competitions, including a commentary may not be appropriate. Photo Harmony sequences must not contain video and although video snippets are allowed in other styles of slideshow, the final sequence must be predominantly still images. All images and video must be your own work.

What about music?

Music is protected by copyright but if your slideshow is only to be shown to friends or family you should be okay to use any music. However, if you intend showing your work to a wider audience or are aiming to enter competitions you must either source royalty free music or pay for an appropriate licence. You may like to check out https://pixabay.com/music because the music there is free to download and use.