

# Film Music - Key Words

## Music Spotting

The Film Music composer attends a 'music-spotting' session with the Director and decides where music is to feature in the finished film.



## Mickey-Mousing

**MICKEY-MOUSING** is used especially in animated films, cartoons and comedy films and is where the music mimics every small movement. *e.g. sliding trombones as characters journey up and down in a lift, a descending chromatic scale as a character goes down a set of stairs.* Timing is crucial when using Mickey-Mousing. The Film Music composer attends a 'music-spotting' session with the Director and decides where music is to feature in the finished film. Mickey-Mousing and Film Music composers often use **CLICK TRACKS** to help them time their music exactly.

## Click Tracks

An electronic METRONOME which helps film composers accurately time their music to on-screen action through a series of 'clicks' (often heard through headphones) – used extensively in cartoons and animated films.

## Storyboards

A graphic organiser in the form of illustrations and images displayed in sequence to help the composer plan their soundtrack.



## Soundtrack

The music and sound recorded on a motion-picture film. The word can also mean a commercial recording of a collection of music and songs from a film sold individually as a CD or collection for digital download.

## Cue Sheets

Cue Sheets are then produced containing accurate timings (in seconds and fractions of seconds) of all dialogue and descriptions of the action.

| MUSIC CUE SHEET              |                      |               |                            |                                   |          |                       |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Program                      | 302 6800             |               |                            | Date                              | 6/20/17  | Air Date 6/21/17, EST |
| TITLE OF MUSICAL COMPOSITION | TIMING OF MUSIC USED | TYPE OF USAGE | COMPOSER/ LYRICISTS        | PUBLISHER/ COPYRIGHT OWNER        | APPROVAL | APPROVAL              |
| Red Devils                   | 1:50                 |               | John Elmer<br>John Elmer   | Red Devil Music                   | ASACP    | ASACP                 |
| XXX Theatrical               | 0:54                 | Y             | Donny Ross<br>Donny Ross   | Madness and More                  | ASACP    | ASACP                 |
|                              |                      |               | David Allen<br>Alex Harris |                                   |          |                       |
| Sound Effects                | 1:08                 | NY            | Mark Wain                  | Music Based Publishing            | ASACP    | ASACP                 |
| United Way New Me            | 1:36                 | NY            | Lisa White<br>Paul Davis   | Griffith Publishing<br>Wynn Music | ASACP    | ASACP                 |
|                              |                      |               | Chris Gray<br>JES Records  |                                   | ASACP    | ASACP                 |

## Diegetic and Non-Diegetic Film Music

**DIEGETIC FILM MUSIC** – Music within the film for both the characters and audience to hear e.g. a car radio, a band in a nightclub or sound effects.

**NON-DIEGETIC FILM MUSIC** – Music which is put “over the top” of the action of a film for the audience’s benefit and which the characters within a film can’t hear – also known as **UNDERScore** or **INCIDENTAL MUSIC**.

Match the following film music key words to their definition

**Leitmotif**

**Mickey Mousing**

**Cue sheet**

**Non diegetic**

**Music spotting**

**Diegetic**

**Storyboard**

**Soundtrack**

**Click track**

Underscore music added over the top of the film action.

Music that both characters and audience can hear

An electronic metronome to time music with action

A melodic idea associated with a character or theme

A composer/ director meeting to decide on music & sound effects

A graphic organiser to help plan soundtrack

Where the music mimics the movement reinforcing the action

A list of musical cues for accurate timing of music

Music and sound recorded on a film.