

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.

[illegible]

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.