

## USE OF MUSIC IN VIDEOS

### **MUSIC SOUND BEDS – LICENSING, ROYALTIES AND THE LAW**

Before you choose music and special effects for your video, you must ensure that it is legal for you to do so. Just because you own a CD does NOT mean you can use music on that CD in your video. The use of all copyright music requires a licence. When you apply for the licence (see APRA form below) you must state that your video will be screened at RIALTO Cinema, Hamilton. This means that you require a broadcast licence to the music and not commercial rights, which is for videos that will be sold. It is unlikely that you will be given permission to use the latest music without paying a royalty fee. CD's that contain sound bed music, sound effects and jingles may also require a licence through APRA – check the small print on the CD and be sure you have free broadcast rights.

To avoid the complications and expense of licensing, see the following guide. Whether the music you use is under licence or not, you must state the source of all music in your video on the form provided.

APRA website: [www.apra.co.nz/welcome.htm](http://www.apra.co.nz/welcome.htm)



### **ROYALTY FREE AND LICENCE FREE MUSIC OPTIONS**

There is an amazing range of music available for download from the Internet but this does not necessarily mean you would be able to use it in your movie. Free Download does not mean free use! The composer/owner always holds the copyright and this needs to be checked and cleared before you proceed.

NOTE - Music obtained by using “free” file sharing programs will most likely be illegal.

Don't forget that you will have local artists in your area that would be more than willing to get some free promotion by helping you with music tracks.

And more importantly - you can make your own sounds or music tracks with a little help from your computer - see below.

### **Royalty-Free CD's for Purchase**

There is royalty free music available on CD ROMs via the Internet – buy for a one off payment then use for free. Read the license agreements! Most sites have a preview facility so you can try the music first – see the examples below.

Music you purchase is usually licensed to you, not owned by you, so you may use it but not pass it on, resell it or make it available for download

Examples -

<http://www.musicloops.com/> Look on the page for a link to the license agreement.

<http://www.soundrangers.com/> offers much the same as above.

<http://www.royaltyfree.com/> again the same as above.

<http://www.musicbakery.com/TabHome01a.htm> as above and you can buy online and download

### **Actual Free Music loops and sounds**

There are many examples of actual free and public domain sounds available on the Web – sometimes it takes time to find them as they are often used as teasers/tasters to get you to a site that sells music/sounds. You need to follow the links carefully. If you have a bit of time, and preferably access to a fast Internet collection, you can put together quite a range of sounds/music.



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Some examples are below. Remember to follow the links and READ!

<http://www.musicloops.com/Cart/>

<http://www.partnersinrhyme.com/pir/PIRsfx.html>

### **Free Music Loops that go with Programmes**

There are also sites with free music loops for use by themselves or with programmes like Garage Band or Acid Music. There is much available if you search the web but you may also have to wade through advertisements.

Please Note: Sometimes you will be offered a choice of music format (e.g. wav, mp3, aiff, ogg) and you may have to convert music files from one format to another so you can use them.

Examples -

[http://www.bitshiftaudio.com/products/bbb/free\\_bee.html](http://www.bitshiftaudio.com/products/bbb/free_bee.html)

<http://www.looperman.com>

<http://www.breakbeatsonly.com/preview1.htm>

[http://www.platinumloops.com/free\\_loops.shtml](http://www.platinumloops.com/free_loops.shtml)

<http://www.samplenet.co.uk/>

<http://www.samplearena.com/download.htm>

### **Free Downloadable Sound Effects**

Other sites have 'free' downloadable sound effects - check the usage rights! Most are okay for non-commercial use. Example of sound effect site <http://www.a1freesoundeffects.com/>

### **Internet Music Available with Artist's Permission**

There are many unsigned/independent musicians/groups who make their music available for free download on the Internet. This does not mean the music is royalty free but if you approach an artist they may be willing to let their music be used – in fact many may be keen for the publicity!

A huge range is available at <http://music.download.com/> Click on 'Music' at the top.

### **Making Your Own Music**

If you are an aspiring music maker, musician, or know musicians who can compose, you can record music directly into a computer and import it into your movie track. This usually requires a small amount of specialized gear but with free software available, anyone can give it a go.

For example Audacity (<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>) – for both Mac and PC is a free audio recording and editing program. Garage Band for OSX (free for Schools) and Acid Express (free) for PC are both music-looping (see below) programmes that allow looping and recording music.

To record music, the computer needs an audio input. These can be added via USB if your computer does not have the appropriate input. A small mixing desk is very useful when audio recording. Number one rule is – if the sound going in is poor than it can be difficult to make it better! Use a quality microphone! (It doesn't have to be really expensive!)

### **Music Looping**

This is using ready made loops of music (or musical snippets) to make your own original soundtrack.

Garage Band for OSX comes with a bank of ready-made loops that even non-playing musicians can use to compose a music track. Super Dooper Music Looper for PC is a reasonably priced programme that also comes with a bank of loops that allow non-playing musicians (anybody!) to produce a music track. And they are great fun!! These two programmes need nothing else but the programme and the computer. You work on 'screen' with a mouse. Acid Express is free but you will need to download the music loops (for example [http://www.platinumloops.com/free\\_loops.shtml](http://www.platinumloops.com/free_loops.shtml)).



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## Help With Making Your Video

A website offering freeware and shareware that you may find useful is

<http://www.usergroups.net/shareware/> Scroll down the page to the heading 'Software News from Macworld Expo', to find Garageband music software, Imovie, Final Cut Express plus many more.



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