

The Functions of Music in Animated Short Films: Analysing the Scores of the Skeleton Dance, Fox and the Whale and la Vieille Dame et les Pigeons

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Abstract : Film music holds a special relationship with the narrative systems and dramaturgical operations in animation. Though the roles of cartoon music closely resemble those fulfilled by traditional film scores, which have been extensively studied, there is a large knowledge gap regarding non-mainstream or non-Hollywood animation music. This paper is an investigation of the understudied compositional materials and narrative contexts in three distinct films by exploring the main narrative and dramaturgical effects of music in The Skeleton Dance, Fox and The Whale, and La Vieille Dame et les Pigeons. The study uses a Neoformalist approach towards qualitative analysis of the music in these films to document ways in which music can be made to function differently depending on the individual films' contexts and the desired effects to be had on the audience. Consequently, the paper highlights these factors' influence on the films' narratives and aims to widen the discourse on composition for animation film scores, suggesting the further study of non-mainstream film music.

Keywords : animation film music, film score analysis, Fox and The Whale, La Vieille Dame et les Pigeons, Neoformalist analysis, The Skeleton Dance

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