

## FINDING COPYRIGHT-FREE MUSIC FOR YOUR STORY & MIX IT WITH YOUR VOICEOVER

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Not all digital stories have music, but it can often be a good addition. Finding music is typically something you do late in the editing process, after your photos are synced with your voiceover.

There are quite a few free and copyright-free music sources on the web, but a lot of the available free music is awful. One site that has a much better good music/terrible music ratio is CC Mixer, an online hub for musicians.

### How to Find a Song on CC Mixer

1. Go to <http://dig.ccmixer.org/film>
2. Now your task is to browse through the songs, clicking on the blue play icons and listening for tunes that seem appropriate. As you listen to a track, you can drag the blue playbar at the bottom left of your screen, to be sure the song doesn't change dramatically later in the track.
3. Listen until you find something you like. If you want to use the song, click on the orange button with a cloud image next to the track. Follow these steps:
  - a. Save the information that is on the left side of the screen by clicking the "Copy to Clipboard" button and then pasting this information with "CMD-V" into a text file or Word document.
  - b. **Right-click** on the Download button, and select "Save Link As..." Be sure to take note of where the file is saving to.

These steps should give you an mp3 file on your computer, ready for import into your video project. Again, be sure to credit the artist with the information you saved in step 3a in your video's credits section.

### How to Mix Music and Your Voiceover

- In multi-track editing software, it's easy to add music: just drag the music track into an audio track.
- In most stories, the title card will appear for two or three seconds in silence, then the music will fade in, and when the music reaches full volume—typically 5-7 seconds from the start of the video—the voiceover will start.
- You'll most likely have to turn the volume of the music down quite a bit, which is easiest done via the volume adjustment slider to the left of the track. Too-loud music will compete with your voiceover for the listener's attention.
- If you want to fade your music in or out, be sure that "Show clip volume" is enabled in the Timeline settings, and either: 1) click "Edit" on the track, and use the sliders to set a duration for the fade in and out, or 2) Add adjustment points

to the track by clicking on it where you wish to add a point, and then drag individual points up or down to raise or lower the volume.

- If your song is too short, too long, or has a section that is tonally off, you can edit the track as you did your voiceover, making cuts and also looping sections that work well.