

Panel F1
Microtalks
Auditorium



Lisa Scoggin
The Creation of a Canon, or, Making a Music in Animation Textbook

In the world of classical music, certain pieces have long been established as part of the canon - that is, works not only of high quality, but also that are exemplary in representing a particular aspect of the classical genre. Similarly, there are movies that are regularly used to demonstrate a specific aspect, be it style, genre, director, and so forth. While there are a few cartoons that are commonly referenced in a similar fashion when discussing music in animation, these exist for very few studios and periods, even when considering only mainstream American animation. When designing a textbook focusing on the study of cartoon music, then, how does one decide which items to include? For example, what constitutes an important work? What aspects should be used as markers, both in terms of animation and accompanying music? How distinct should each example be from the others (both within a series or studio and compared to other ones)? How should the overall canon be balanced between shorts and features, or theatrical and television, or Golden Age and more recent material (or should these even be a consideration)? This microtalk will consider these and other questions to discuss what goes into the making of a cartoon music canon, especially within the artificial construct of a textbook.

Biography

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Lisa Scoggin completed her Ph.D. in Musicology at Boston University and received degrees from Oberlin College and the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She has presented papers internationally, most notably at the American Musicological Society conference, the Society for American Music conference, the Music and the Moving Image conference, and the Society for Animation Studies conference. Her recently published book, entitled *The Music of Animaniacs: Postmodern Nostalgia in a Cartoon World*, examines the ideas of parody, nostalgia, and postmodernism as seen within the American television show *Animaniacs*. She has taught at Boston University, St. Anselm College, and Tufts University, where she taught a course on music in American animated film. Her interests include mainstream American animation, animation and society, and music in animation.