

5 Cues

A CLOSER LOOK



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NewManagement.com/soundproj.html

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SP14.02

HAPPY **PRODUCTIVE**

IN EDITION 01 OF SOUND PROJECT 2014, I HIGHLIGHTED FIVE REALLY GREAT CUES. THE INFO THAT WAS PROVIDED WAS MEANT TO MAKE THE SEARCH ON FPM.COM A BIT EASIER.

The power of these cues to help students become more independent and productive is pretty amazing. Almost magical in its effect, short songs will send a signal to your students that they need to complete some pre-determined task. And the length of the song will limit how much time they have in which to get it done. *Clean Up, Pack Up, Line Up at the Door, or Get Ready to Take Notes* are just a few of the many ways music could be put to work in your classroom.

If you've been using musical cues, you already know what I'm talking about.

If not, maybe give some thought to the concept of using music to help create the happy, productive classroom every educator desires. I'm fairly confident you'll be glad you did.

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My Take on the 5 Cues

How *you* use the songs, of course, is up to you and your students. One teacher's cue for *Grab a Whiteboard + Join Me for a Lesson*, is some other teacher's signal to

Get Out Your Homework. Nonetheless, I thought it made sense to provide some suggestions for how to incorporate the cues into your classroom routines.



Track Title		Volume Title	Style	Feel	Tempo
Straight from the Heart	0:19	TV Theme Songs Volume 1	Funk/jazz	Feel Good	medium

Feeling: A boost of energy. **Response:** Let's do something!

This cue is a good one for taking care of some simple task. And the dramatic ending will act as a *Time's Up* indicator.

Whether the the task is to *Get Out Your Planner* or *Clear Your Desks for Lunch*, the high energy feel will have your students quickly taking care of business.

Or how about using it as an effective mid-morning stretch song?

Bonus: It's the shortest cue of the five. You could take periodic stretch breaks if you wanted to.

Turn on the News	0:25	TV Theme Songs Volume 2	Rock Orchestral	Adventure/ Action	med-fast
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Very professional feel. Has a lot of juice due to the CNN vibe.

Maybe it could be used as an intro for a student about to share some school news.

Or how about a cool switch-out-the-team kind of cue? I'm picturing teams of students creating short presentations that highlight the week's topics and presenting them on Friday.

As one team wraps up its presentation, the song is cued. Team 1 moves out as Team 2 moves in. For the audience, the music will help to make the transition a bit more enjoyable. It should also provide a bit of suspense as each new group takes the stage to get ready. When the cue ends, the presentation begins.

With a bit of practice, you could go through the entire show without a hitch.

Double bonus: Not only does it have a great finish, the cue provides everyone with a mental break after each presentation.

The Game is On	0:30	TV Theme Songs Volume 2	Orchestral	Aggressive/ Driving	med-fast
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My personal favorite. The Olympics Meets Monday Night Football.

If this cue doesn't get you pumped up, we may need to check your pulse.

This is an ideal song to announce that *Bellwork™* is about to commence.

Bonus: It's got a rhythm you can dance to.



How about a Glee option? All you'd have to do is allow students to submit a YouTube video that shows the choreography they created for one of the cues. We could end up with a video for each of them.

Student: I get to dance?
Teacher: Yeah, buddy. Have at it. Just make sure you produce a video of the whole thing.

Track Title		Volume Title	Style	Feel	Tempo
Oakland Soul	0:28	TV Theme Songs Volume 4	Soundtrack	Driving/ Rhythm	med-fast

Wow, do I love jazz-funk.

This track will inject a lot of rhythm into whatever it is your students will be doing.

Note: I'd allow the dance moves to occur as long as they didn't interfere with the task being completed.

But to keep things manageable, you might want to think about using this cue to initiate a procedure which keeps them at their desks and not moving about the room. Getting ready for a new lesson/activity would work quite well.

Before playing the song, list on the whiteboard what students will need to do in order to be ready. After that, it's just a matter of playing the song. Everyone will look at the list of steps and know exactly what to do to get ready for the lesson.

Bonus: It has a driving beat and a tight little horn flourish as a wrap. Very nice.

Familiar Tune	0:28	TV Theme Songs Volume 8	Soundtrack	Bouncing/ Lively	medium
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How wholesome is this song? Feels like I'm back in the 5th grade. [And that wasn't yesterday.]

Regardless of the era, this cue is a winner. Perfect for clean-up or some kind of get-ready routine. Hit play, and the students, in less than thirty seconds, will have taken care of the rest.

Bonus: It has a bright finish that helps to alert students that the song is over.

Reality: They will only need the alert in the beginning as they get used to hearing a song during the procedure. Before too long, they'll internalize the song so that the entire cue is stored away in the limbic brain, where it can be quickly accessed and utilized.



Bonus

an introspective tone that's just spooky enough to be fun

As I stated in SP14.01, this second edition contains a bonus song that is kind of spooky.

Here it is.

Track Title		Volume Title	Style	Feel	Tempo
Dark Thought	0:29	TV Theme Songs Volume 3	Orchestral	Mysterious/Tense	slow

Advantages: The mysterious feel is a real change from the other cues. Has a nice fairy tale finish.

Bottom Line

Download 'em all. Then pick one to work into a routine or procedure. Starting with just one cue will make the task of incorporating music into your classroom a bit more manageable.

[Maybe play all six cues for your students and let them select the cue to be used first.]

After an introduction to the students, it's then just a matter of how much training and practice will be required so that the whole thing becomes seamless.

Better one cue done well than three or four that have a rather shabby look to them.

Core Belief: Success breeds success.

So start with just one cue, and play with it for a week or so until you've figured out how to best use it.

After that, it's just a matter of inspiring your students to take ownership of the task being completed, whatever that task may be.

SP14.03

In the next edition of Sound Project 2014, I'll provide you with 5 production songs. This will be the kind of music that you can play when your students are on task.

If you want to get a head start, feel free to download this song and give it a try in class.

Track Title		Volume Title	Style	Feel	Tempo
Acoustic Flow	3:24	Promos Volume 4	Rock Folk	Atmospheric	Medium



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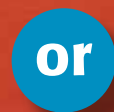


The two apps shown above are available in the App Store. Class Cards is not yet iPad native, so you'll need to search for an iPhone app called Class Cards.

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