

---

## New soundtracks are `inspired' with music not even in the flicks; [Final , C Edition]

Rick Reger, *Special to the Tribune*. **Chicago Tribune**. Chicago, Ill.: Nov 29, 2002. pg. 1

### Abstract (Document Summary)

"Lately, I've noticed a strong trend towards soundtracks that have the words 'music from and inspired by' in the title, and that's a bit disturbing," says Dan Goldwasser, editor-in-chief of SoundtrackNet ([www.soundtrack.net](http://www.soundtrack.net)), an online, all-purpose soundtrack resources site. "I'm a big fan of song-based and score-based soundtracks, but when you start seeing soundtracks that include three songs from the movie and six songs 'inspired by' the movie, then I'm not sure you're still talking about a soundtrack."

### Full Text (888 words)

*(Copyright 2002 by the Chicago Tribune)*

When the album "Music from and Inspired by the Motion Picture 8 Mile" recently entered the Billboard charts at number one, it underscored the long-standing commercial vitality of film soundtracks. In June of 1965, five soundtracks ("Mary Poppins," "Goldfinger," "Girl Happy," "The Sound of Music," "My Fair Lady") occupied the Billboard Top 10 in the same week. And while soundtracks have experienced sales peaks and valleys, they've always remained an important, if sometimes overlooked, component of record industry profitability.

However, the success of "8 Mile" also highlights a dubious new development in soundtracks. Increasingly, records that present themselves as film soundtracks include music not featured in--or integral to--the actual movie.

"Lately, I've noticed a strong trend towards soundtracks that have the words 'music from and inspired by' in the title, and that's a bit disturbing," says Dan Goldwasser, editor-in-chief of SoundtrackNet ([www.soundtrack.net](http://www.soundtrack.net)), an online, all-purpose soundtrack resources site. "I'm a big fan of song-based and score-based soundtracks, but when you start seeing soundtracks that include three songs from the movie and six songs 'inspired by' the movie, then I'm not sure you're still talking about a soundtrack."

The problem for soundtrack buyers is that the term is so vague they have no idea what exactly they're getting when they purchase these records.

"Beginning with the 'Batman' soundtrack, a lot of records started using the term 'music from and inspired by' in their titles," says Geoff Mayfield, Billboard's Director of Charts. "So you don't know if the songs on the record were central to the film, were overheard on a radio for five seconds during a scene or were intended for the film but never made the final cut.

"Hopefully, it's one of the latter rather than some Machiavellian marketing ploy just to expose new artists who had nothing to do with a particular movie. But you just don't know."

Some record labels and movie studios have tried to clarify this issue by releasing multiple "soundtrack" albums that highlight various musical components of a film. Music from the films "Batman" and "Spider-Man" was released as a score soundtrack.

"Occasionally, you'll see the release of an album of songs from a movie or of songs inspired by a movie and another release of the actual film score," says Goldwasser. "The `Spider-Man' soundtracks were a good example of that."

However, it remains to be seen how often record labels will continue to do this given the fact that song-based soundtracks consistently outsell their score-based counterparts by substantial margins.

"'Titanic' and its sequel 'Back to Titanic' have been the only predominantly score-based soundtracks to crack the Billboard Top 10 since 1998," says Mayfield. "The song-based collections are typically the really big sellers these days."

With that in mind, here's a selected overview of noteworthy new and upcoming soundtracks:

"Die Another Day" Various artists (Warner Brothers). Features original score composed by Bjork collaborator David Arnold along with a Paul Oakenfold re-mix and a title song co-written and performed by Madonna. Out now.

"Music from and Inspired by the Motion Picture 8 Mile" Various artists (Interscope/Shady). Features music from the movie and additional material performed by rap/R&B stars including Eminem, Nas, D-12, Rakim, Macy Gray, Jay-Z and others. Out now.

"Treasure Planet" Various artists (Disney). In addition to the original score composed by James Newton Howard, also features songs by BB Mak and Goo Goo Dolls' John Rzeznik. Out now.

"Harry Potter & The Chamber of Secrets" (Atlantic). Original score composed by John Williams. Out now.

"The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" (Warner Brothers). In addition to the original score composed by Howard Shore, also features songs performed by Sheila Chandra, Elizabeth Fraser and others. Scheduled release: Dec. 10.

"Standing in the Shadows of Motown" Various artists (Hip-O/ Motown). Features Motown classics performed by label session veterans, the Funk Brothers, with vocalists Joan Osborne, Me'shell Ndegeocello, Ben Harper, Chaka Khan, Gerald Levert, Bootsie Collins and others. Out now.

"Friday After Next" Various artists (Hollywood). Features classic and new songs performed by rap/R&B stars including Busta Rhymes, Nappy Roots, 50 Cent, Donny Hathaway and others. Out now.

"Wild Thornberrys" Various artists (Jive). Features songs and performances by Peter Gabriel, P. Diddy, Reel Big Fish, Pretenders, Angelique Kidjo, Paul Simon and others. Out now.

"Santa Claus 2" Various artists (Disney). Features Christmas- themed songs performed by Chuck Berry, Louis Armstrong, the Shirelles, Smokey Robinson, Unwritten Law and Sum 41, Brian Setzer and others. Out now.

"Adam Sandler's Eight Crazy Nights" Adam Sandler (Columbia). Features songs written and performed by comedian Adam Sandler assisted by various guests. Out now.

"Star Trek: Nemesis" (Varese Sarabande). Features original score composed by Jerry Goldsmith. Out now.

"Catch Me If You Can" (Dreamworks). Features original score composed by John Williams and classic songs by Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Dusty Springfield, Judy Garland and Stan Getz. Scheduled release: Dec. 10.

### **[[Illustration]]**

PHOTOS 2; Caption: PHOTO (color): From top, cover images from the soundtracks for "8 Mile," "Santa Clause 2," "Mary Poppins," "Friday After Next," and "Standing in the Shadows of Motown." PHOTO: "Batman" was one of the first films to release two separate soundtrack recordings, one of the movie score and one of "music inspired by" the movie. Later, "Spider-Man" did the same thing. These are two notable examples of what is a growing trend in the soundtrack market.

---

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction or distribution is prohibited without permission.

Subjects: Musical recordings, Motion pictures

Document types: Feature

Section: *Movies*  
ISSN/ISBN: 10856706  
Text Word Count 888  
Document URL: