



## Research > MEMORABILIA. COLLECTING SOUNDS WITH... Jonny Trunk

MEMORABILIA. COLLECTING SOUNDS WITH... seeks to break through to unearth and reveal private collections of music and sound *memorabilia*. It is a historiography of sound collecting that reveals the unseen and passionate work of the amateur collector while reconstructing multiple parallel histories such as the evolution of recording formats, archiving issues, the collecting market and the evolution of musical styles beyond the marketplace.

Each episode in the series is accompanied by an additional programme featuring an exclusive music selection by each of the collectors.

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Produced by Matias Rossi.

Matias Rossi studied Journalism the National University of La Plata (UNLP), Argentina. In 2000 he settled in Barcelona, where he set up his current base of operations. Rossi was a regular collaborator with the label Ooze.bâp and co-director of the online magazine *Acetone* and the Fanzinoteca Ambulant. In 2005 he founded the instrumental group Bradien, which has released several works and collaborated with Bill Wells, John Giorno and Catalan poet Eduard Escoffet. [www.bradien.net](http://www.bradien.net)

Jonny Trunk collecting records around 1982, but rather than focusing on traditional record stores, he chose to comb second hand outlets and street markets. It didn't take long for him to realise that his obsession was not pop music or modern sounds, but film soundtracks and television music. He founded the label Trunk Records in 1995, and it soon gained a cult following as a result of its specialisation in unpublished jazz recordings and film and television soundtracks. Trunk Records was the first label to feature non-commercial library music, a genre that Trunk has written about extensively. Trunk hosts a radio programme at London radio station Resonance FM, and he regularly DJs around the world. His record collection now consists of around six thousand LPs. [www.trunkrecords.com](http://www.trunkrecords.com)

# MEMORABILIA. COLLECTING SOUNDS WITH...

Jonny Trunk

Owner of a collection of some eight thousand records, Jonny Trunk admits that he has never ceased to follow a maxim that his parents instilled in him at a very young age: 'If you buy something new, you lose money.' Nonetheless, it isn't the figures that make his record collection exceptional and worth sharing, but the two thousand records of archival or library music that it includes.

## 01. Summary

It isn't easy to sum up the concept of library music or to explain what it is and what it's like. Library music, 'sonorizzazioni' (another of the terms used in this fascinating musical underworld), or archival music, refers to sound recordings produced for professional use in the context of film, television and radio. It is a prolific industry that, according to its scholars, achieved its greatest splendour from the sixties to the mid-eighties, and is governed by series of aesthetic, production, marketing and distribution rules that lie outside of the established channels. It is utilitarian music, created for commercial purposes, in which, paradoxically, musicians and composers take on a professional role and find themselves forced to resolve highly abstract matters and situations, such as developing a narrative that is subordinate to images (in soundtracks) or coming up with an entire imaginary without any pre-existing references. Library music is also a poorly documented genre, full of oddities and bristling with strange experiments.

Jonny Trunk says that as a teenager he was already inexplicably attracted by the strange music and sounds in the films and educational programmes that went to air at night. It was, he says, imaginative and surprising music, but did not appear on the credits and there was no way of knowing where and how to find it. Curiosity and his ever-increasing collection of records and cassettes found in flea markets finally showed him the way into this underworld of enigmas, pseudonyms and other surprises. A Frank Gartner vinyl that he found by chance in a second hand store revealed the key word and essential clues to how and where to find his obscure object of desire.

The rest, as they say, is history. His collection focuses on the period spanning from 1966 to 1978, and offers an in-depth account of British, French, Italian and German productions. Since 1995, Trunk has also run Trunk Records – a record company that specialises in finding and releasing unknown recordings by forgotten composers such as Basil Kirchin and John Baker. He also hosts 'OST', a weekly Resonance FM programme to which he invites musicians, publishers, and people interested in jazz and film and television soundtracks. He is also a DJ, chooses music for ads, writes articles and has edited books such as *Dirty Fan Male*, in which he compiled some of the letters received by his sister, the porn model Eve Vorley; *The Music Library*, featuring library music record covers; and the recent *Own Label*, on the packaging designed by Sainsburys design studio from 1962 to 1977.

## 02. Playlist

### Part I

- Cliff Johns, 'Goofy' (*G-Spots*, Trunk Records)
- Li de la Russe, 'Delia's Resolve' (*The Tomorrow People*, Trunk Records)
- Li de la Russe, 'Fresh Aire' (*The Tomorrow People*, Trunk Records)
- Henry Mancini, 'Chicken Little Was Right' (*The Party*, RCA Victor)
- Barry Gray, 'Herald – Local Cinema Commercial' (*Stand by for Adverts*, Trunk Records)
- Frank Gartner, 'Kryptoglyphics' (*Dramatics Electronic*, Bosworth Backgrounds)



[Jonny Trunk during the lecture MEMORABILIA. COLLECTING SOUNDS WITH...]

Simon Haseley, 'Underlining 5' (*World Power*, DeWolfe) Eric Swan, 'Leisurely Ramble' (*Jingle Encore*, Mondiofphone)  
 Roger Roger, 'Sound Industrial N°4' (*Sound Industrial*, L'illustration Musicale)  
 Vladimir Cosma, 'Impacts' (*Insolite & co*, Musique pour l'image)  
 John Matthews, 'Electro Waltz MQ LP35/3' (*John Baker Tapes Vol. 2*, Trunk Records)  
 Nino Nardini, 'La planète oubliée' (*Musique pour le futur*, Mondiofphone)  
 John Cameron, 'Half Forgotten Daydreams' (*Voices in Harmony*, KPM)  
 Syd Dale, 'News views' (*Impact and Action*, KPM)  
 Simon Park, 'Barbeque' (*Gun Barrel Highway*, De Wolfe)  
 Malcolm Lockyer, 'Man from Malibú-Latin' (*Exotica*, Chappell)  
 Douglas Wood, 'Kids Stuff' (*G-Spots*, Trunk Records)  
 Vincent Geminiani, 'Silences' (*Musique pour un voyage extraordinaire*, Musique pour l'image)  
 Janko Nilovic, 'Système binaire' (*Percussions dans l'espace*, Editions Montparnasse 2000)  
 Nino Oliviero & Bruno Nicolai, 'Gallo Sapiente' (*Il pelo nel mondo*, I CAM)  
 Cecil Leuter, 'Electro Theme N° 2' (*TV Music 104*, Chappell)  
 Eddie Warner, 'Income Tax Obsession' (*100% Electronic*, L'illustration Musicale)  
 John Tender, 'Drama in Fantasyland 2' (*Fantasyland Vol. 1*, Coloursound Library)  
 Raymond Guiot & Guy Pedersen, 'Indian Pop Bass' (*Indian Pop Bass*, Telemusic)  
 Nino Nardini, 'Tropical' (*Exotica*, Chappell)

### 03. Related links

Trunk Records

[www.trunkrecords.com](http://www.trunkrecords.com)

'OST' Archive, Jonny Trunk's weekly radio programme on Resonance FM  
[podcasts.resonancefm.com/archives/category/shows/ost](http://podcasts.resonancefm.com/archives/category/shows/ost)

Audio file of Jonny Trunk speaking about soundtracks and the Oscars on Jarvis Coker's radio show  
[jcsm6m.blogspot.com.es/2012/02/oscars-music-with-johnny-trunk.html](http://jcsm6m.blogspot.com.es/2012/02/oscars-music-with-johnny-trunk.html)

Jonny Trunk interviews Danger Mouse and Daniele Luppi for BBC2  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4MOMZmtDJ4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4MOMZmtDJ4)

A selection of obscure soundtracks

[www.vice.com/read/what-the-hell-is-that-noise-148-v16n9](http://www.vice.com/read/what-the-hell-is-that-noise-148-v16n9)

A documentary about library music: 'Into the Music Library Documentary' BBC Radio 4

[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01061hr](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01061hr)

Video: 'A Hard Day's Night: Jonny Trunk'

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOUHfqUSIEM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOUHfqUSIEM)

Conversation with Jonny Trunk on his sound collection

[rwm.macba.cat/en/extra/memorabilia\\_jonny\\_trunk\\_conversation/capsula](http://rwm.macba.cat/en/extra/memorabilia_jonny_trunk_conversation/capsula)

MEMORABILIA. COLLECTING SOUNDS WITH... Jonny Trunk lecture MP3

[rwm.macba.cat/uploads/memorabilia/jonny\\_trunk\\_lecture.mp3](http://rwm.macba.cat/uploads/memorabilia/jonny_trunk_lecture.mp3)

MEMORABILIA. COLLECTING SOUNDS WITH... Jonny Trunk. Part I podcast

[rwm.macba.cat/en/research/memorabilia\\_jonny\\_trunk/capsula](http://rwm.macba.cat/en/research/memorabilia_jonny_trunk/capsula)

MEMORABILIA. COLLECTING SOUNDS WITH... Jonny Trunk teaser

[rwm.macba.cat/en/extra/teaser\\_memorabilia\\_jonny\\_trunk/capsula](http://rwm.macba.cat/en/extra/teaser_memorabilia_jonny_trunk/capsula)

Jonny Trunk at Ràdio Web MACBA

[rwm.macba.cat/en/jonny\\_trunk\\_tag](http://rwm.macba.cat/en/jonny_trunk_tag)



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#### 04. Acknowledgements

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