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Audiovisual Warfare: Music and International Persuasion in Documentary Films during the Spanish Civil War

LIDIA LÓPEZ GÓMEZ (D)

Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain

Abstract

During the Spanish Civil War, cinema became one of the most powerful weapons of propaganda. The music of the films, full of anthems and political references, was an essential tool for displaying the documentary's intentions and for influencing spectators' reactions. Between 1936 and 1939, there was a surge in the production of documentaries targeting international audiences, as they were an invaluable resource for engaging the European countries that had signed the Non-Intervention Agreement against involvement in the Spanish conflict. The objective of this article is to analyse the music of the documentaries set in Spain that were exhibited internationally during the years of the war. We will study the politically tendentious uses of anthems and popular songs on the soundtracks, as well as the importance of the figure of the composer — for those documentaries with original music — attending to the social and political circumstances surrounding their participation in the production.

Introduction

The Non-Intervention Agreement was one of the vital elements that determined the international situation during the Spanish Civil War. This pact, led by the French government, was designed to avert European countries from becoming involved in the national struggle so as to prevent Europe from becoming so bound up with and so divided over the ideological aspects of the conflict that the fighting would lead to a general European war. Nevertheless, the pact's primary intention was not fulfilled, as the ideological and political strains between other European countries grew during the 1930s even though they did not participate in the Spanish war. Although the signatory countries could not officially take part in the war, nations supporting the Nationalist and Republican factions broke the agreement countless times through their actions, such as when the German air force bombed Guernica and the International Brigades provided assistance to the Republican government. Many of these

Email: Lidia.Lopez@uab.cat

- 1 On this matter, some sources suggest that France's official political position was determined by pressure from the British government. Glyn Stone, 'Britain, Non-Intervention and the Spanish Civil War', European Studies Review 9 (1979), 129.
- 2 Norman J. Padelford, 'The International Non-Intervention Agreement and the Spanish Civil War', The American Journal of International Law 1/4 (1937), 578.
- 3 Anthony Beevor, La Guerra Civil española (Barcelona: Ediciones Crítica, 2010), 340 and 717.

events were portrayed in films with propagandistic intentions that contained documentary footage either showing the cruelty of the opposing side or praising the heroes of their own. These documentaries were not exclusively produced in Spain, and at least 138 films which evidence shows existed - were produced abroad. However, the bulk of production, amounting to 76.5 per cent of the preserved materials, was Spanish,⁴ with many of the documentaries being premiered on international screens with the aim of influencing public opinion and making neighbouring countries aware of the hardships of the war. This, it was hoped, might have convinced them to overlook the Non-Intervention Agreement and actively participate in the conflict.

Known as the precursor to the Second World War, the Spanish Civil War has been of interest to international scholars for years, with the most cited treatises on the topic being by British authors.⁵ Yet the specific study of the films of this period has been limited so far to works by Spanish authors focused on national production, only recently acquiring an international perspective with authors such as Manuel Nicolás Meseguer, who studies German film production on the war. Nevertheless, the music within the audiovisual format - or its social and cultural implications – has been scarcely studied. This is surprising if we consider that music was a key element used to perform subliminal propaganda in documentaries because of its capacity to persuade audiences subconsciously, as well as its ability to accomplish functions such as those stated by Jose Antonio Muñiz Velázquez: 'the decrease of the critical capacity of the population, and the symbolization of power or the creation of social cohesion'. As Claudia Gorbman suggests, in an audiovisual context, the music also 'bonds spectators together' by bringing them into a state that predisposes them to accept what happens on screen. 10 Although Gorbman's work is based on fiction films, her premises can also be applied to documentaries, as both can be subjected to the notion of 'transportation' described by Paloma Atencia-Linares, understood as the 'non-illusory experience of being carried away by a story due to induced empathy for the character and the audience imaginings

⁴ Maria Luisa Ibáñez Ferradas, 'Un inconexo retablo de luz y sombra', in Catálogo general del cine de la Guerra Civil, ed. Alfonso del Amo García and Maria Luisa Ibáñez Ferradas (Madrid: Ed. Cátedra, 1996).

⁵ Hugh Thomas, The Spanish Civil War (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1961); Paul Preston, The Spanish Civil War1936-39 (New York: Grove Press, 1986); Beevor, La Guerra Civil española.

⁶ Román Gubern, 1936–1939. La guerra de España en la pantalla (Madrid: Filmoteca Española, 1986); Magí Crusells, La Guerra Civil española: cine y propaganda, 2nd edn (Barcelona: Ariel Cine, 2003); Magí Crusells, Cine y Guerra Civil española. Imágenes para la memoria (Madrid: Ediciones J.C., 2006).

⁷ Manuel Nicolás Meseguer, La intervención velada: el apoyo cinematográfico alemán al bando franquista (1936–1939) (Murcia: Universidad de Murcia, 2004); Manuel Nicolás Meseguer, 'Las relaciones cinematográficas hispano-alemanas durante la Guerra Civil española y los inicios del franquismo (1936-1945)' (DPhil diss., University of Murcia, 2008).

⁸ Lidia López Gómez, 'La composición musical para el cine en la Guerra Civil española. Música, política y propaganda en cortometrajes y mediometrajes (1936-1939)' (DPhil diss., Autonomous University of Barcelona, 2014), 22-7.

⁹ Jose Antonio Muñiz Velázquez, 'La música en el sistema propagandístico franquista', Historia y Comunicación Social 3 (1998), 350.

¹⁰ Claudia Gorbman, Unheard Melodies: Narrative Film Music (London: BFI Publications, 1987), 53 and 63-4.

regarding the story'. 11 In this case, the characters are real individuals and the story arises out of a montage of material from very different provenances used by producers and directors to artificially construct a narrative. While the film has to be convincing, it should be remembered that it is still a documentary with a propagandistic purpose, and that it therefore has a suitably generated discourse and a carefully constructed slant on the Spanish struggle. As Geoffrey B. Pingree declared, the Spanish Civil War was 'not just a battle for land, political power, or military supremacy, [it] was also a battle about narrative meaning - struggle over Spain's national story - over who should tell it and how it should be told'. 12 Music and sound play a leading role in the creation of narrative meaning as they try to convince viewers of the films' arguments by demonstrating the truthfulness of their versions. As James Deaville states, 13 since the first years of sound film, 14 music and sound have provided a way 'to mask the artificiality of a given scene . . . [and] helped create a sense of authenticity among audiences, by suggesting that they were seeing and hearing the world as it was'. 15

As will be shown, one can find different propagandistic musical resources on the soundtracks of the documentaries produced during the war, which include anthems, traditional, and folk music from diverse regions of the country, as well as international popular music from the 1930s. This article will study how the use of music and its synchronization with the images enhanced the politically biased nature of the documentaries set in Spain that were exhibited internationally during the Spanish Civil War, the aim being to encourage European and worldwide countries to actively participate in the conflict. ¹⁶

To this end, this article is structured in two main sections: the first addresses the filmic mechanisms that imply internationalization purposes. In the case of the Republican side, this was mainly achieved by introducing elements that would enable audiences abroad to identify with the films' narrative. The resource most commonly used for this was the - almost

¹¹ Paloma Atencia-Linares, 'Sound in Film', in The Palgrave Handbook of the Philosophy of Film and Motion Pictures, ed. Noël Carrol, Laura T. Di Summa, and Shawn Loht (Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019), 203.

¹² Geoffrey B. Pingree, 'The Documentary Dilemma and the Spanish Civil War', in Teaching Representation of the Spanish Civil War, ed. Noël Valis (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2007), 306.

¹³ Deaville focuses on newsreels rather than documentaries, but his statements are perfectly applicable as the formats were aesthetically similar in the first decade of sound cinema, the only difference being newsreels' short duration.

¹⁴ In Spain, sound became standardized a few years later. Ramiro Gómez Bermúdez de Castro 'La transformación del cine mudo al sonoro en España (1929-1931). Los costes económicos', in El paso del mudo al sonoro en el cine español, ed. Emilio García Fernádez (Madrid: Editorial Complutense, 1993), 103.

¹⁵ James Deaville, 'Sounding the World. The Role of Music and Sound in Early "Talking" Newsreels', in Music and Sound in Documentary Film, ed. Holly Rogers (New York and Oxon: Routledge, 2015), 47.

¹⁶ This was done in the most direct way possible: by dubbing the tapes into different languages and adding speech and characters urging direct participation. The Republican side conceived its documentaries as a product that sought to legitimize the 'social justice represented by the Republican government, the dignity of its supporters and the need to come to its aid in the conflict'. To achieve this filmically, 'the photography displays a great variety of style, with closeups of objects and faces that enhance the symbolism and identification of the spectator with the protagonists together with emotive micro-fictional tales' (Francisco-Javier Ruiz del Olmo and Jordi Xifra, 'Public Relations Discourse, Ethical Propaganda and Collective Identity in Buñuel's Spanish Civil War films', Public Relations Review 43 (2017)). The Nationalist side followed the same narrative trends. Their documentaries were directly created by Italy and Germany to exalt the work of the soldiers sent to fight at the Front.

systematic - presence of the International Brigades on the screen. To this end, international volunteers were presented as indispensable to the war, validating and reinforcing the Republican cause. On the Nationalist side, internationalization was not presented as an intrinsic element of the film, but was shaped by the productions made by Germany. Its interests and political affinities in the war led the country to actively collaborate in creating film material for Spain through the company Hispano Film Produktion, whose productions, both documentaries and fiction, ¹⁷ were screened in both countries.

The second part of the article presents case examples of how, despite divergent audiences and techniques, Republican and Nationalist productions strategically deployed the same topics by modifying the narrative, propagandistic, and musical style to fit with partisan ideology. Two subjects widely used by both sides and relating directly to international politics will be used: the situation of the children and the treatment of foreign and national prisoners of war. Throughout the article, it will be studied how – despite the ideological discrepancies between both sides - these topics operate as common tropes in films of very different natures, as they were a straightforward way to hit the sensibilities and interests of foreign audiences.

Internationalizing Cinema

The Republican forces and the International Brigades

The most significant support the Republican government had received, in terms of manpower, was the International Brigades: battalions of volunteers from all over the world willing to join the war fronts to defend democracy. Among the brigadiers were renowned public figures such as George Orwell, Ernest Hemingway, and André Malraux, who, besides actively participating in the battle from the barricades, also created novels and audiovisual works about the conflict.¹⁸ The International Brigades received substantial media attention since showing combatants of diverse backgrounds and nationalities underlined the international relevance of the war. Consequently, the brigadiers were portrayed in numerous documentaries throughout the conflict, always represented as exemplary citizens in the hope of convincing audiences where the films premiered to get involved in the war. ¹⁹

Such is the case of the film España 1936, directed by Jean Paul Le Chanois in 1937. The footage - which relates some of the crucial points of the first year of the war - displays images

¹⁷ The fiction films, as well as the music, made by this company have been studied by Enrique Encabo in 'From Spain to Germany (and Back to Spain): Songs in the Spanish Musical Films of the 1930s', in Popular Music in Spanish Cinema, ed. Lidia López (Farnham: Ashgate, forthcoming).

¹⁸ Orwell wrote Homage to Catalonia (1938), Hemingway filmed the documentary The Spanish Earth (1937) - which is studied in this article - and André Malraux shot the feature film Sierra de Teruel (1939), directly commissioned by Juan Negrín's government. A detailed analysis of this film and Darius Milhaud's music can be found in Lidia López Gómez, "Sierra de Teruel (Espoir)": Música y cine durante la Guerra Civil española', TRANS-Revista Transcultural de Música/ Transcultural Music Review 17 (2013).

¹⁹ A complete list of references of films concerning the International Brigades can be found in Magí Crusells, Las Brigadas Internacionales en la Pantalla, 2nd edn (Cuidad Real: Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, 2002).

²⁰ This documentary is also known as Madrid 1936, España leal en armas, and Espagne 1936. The Spanish copy of the documentary has been lost and only the French and Italian versions are preserved. The French version used as a source for this article is available in the collection by the Spanish Film Archive (Filmoteca Española, La guerra filmada, DVD

of Germany's and Italy's military might through general shots showing their large armies, planes, and military equipment, contrasting them with the passion, solidarity, and devotion of the International Brigadiers who fought for the Republic, represented with more individualized close-ups. The documentary is a paragon of a compilation production created from pre-existing materials; these being previously selected by the renowned Spanish director Luis Buñuel and edited by Le Chanois. The original audio of the fragments was notably eliminated – or significantly reduced in volume²¹ – in order to make a new mix with a pre-eminent voiceover for the final product.

Thus, in the documentary, music and sound are almost absent with two striking exceptions: the use of brass fanfares when the Republican army is optimistically getting ready for battle, and the use of fragments of Himno de Riego (Riego's Anthem), which recurs through the film. Himno de Riego was first performed at the beginning of the nineteenth century,²² it achieved almost immediate popularity, and as a result was declared the National Anthem in April 1822.²³ However, it only remained the national anthem for two years during that century as it was banned following the imposition of Ferdinand VII's absolutist government. Thereafter, 'it became the inevitable accompaniment of all liberal uprisings', 24 and was reinstated as the national anthem by the Government of the Second Republic in 1931. With this background, it is not surprising that the anthem became the most significant musical element that unified nearly all Republican film productions, regardless of the producers' ideology. Though the film, the anthem always appears alongside images that include close-ups of both anonymous soldiers and relevant political and military figures - Durruti, Dolores Ibárruri La Pasionaria, or General José Miaja – as well as crowded parades. Yet, on these occasions short fragments are heard, and the anthem is only played in its entirety the last time it appears, with the last chord matching the end of the documentary.

Another prolific anthem in the Republican lines that directly characterized the International Brigades was *The Internationale*.²⁵ Its presence in a great number of Republican documentaries was meant to represent the alliance of left-wing ideologies – anarchists, communists, socialists – and also nations. The Internationale became one of the 'historically contingent mechanisms

⁽Madrid: Filmoteca Española, 2009)). In this copy, the locution and intertitles are in French, with the intention to appeal to French citizens.

²¹ The original sound is still audible at some points, as in a scene that shows some school-age youths, which uses music and images from a previous film titled (18 de Julio) N° 2 Madrid. This previous documentary – one of the few Izquierda Republicana productions – was directed by Arturo Ruiz-Castillo in 1936, with music by Daniel Montorio.

²² One of the first testimonies is found in El Averiguador, a magazine dating from the late nineteenth century that published correspondence between "the curious, the literary and antiquarians". In it, A. Grimaldi states that the music of the anthem was a rigodon by Manuel Varo, who adapted it to the lyrics by Evaristo San Miguel. The anthem was premiered in the Plaza de la Constitución in Algeciras, in January 1820, on the occasion of the arrival of an expeditionary column to the city. A. Grimaldi, 'El himno de Riego', El Averiguador (Segunda época) 12, 15 June 1871.

²³ Cortes Generales, 1822. 'Decreto XIV, de 7 de abril de 1822'. Colección de los decretos y órdenes generales expedidos por las Cortes. Desde 1º de Marzo hasta 30 de junio de 1822, Tomo IX. Madrid: Imprenta Nacional.

²⁴ Luis Diaz Viana, Canciones populares de la Guerra Civil española (Madrid: Taurus Ediciones, 1985), 56.

²⁵ Joaquina Labajo, 'Compartiendo canciones y utopías: el caso de los Voluntarios Internacionales en la Guerra Civil española', TRANS-Revista Transcultural de Música/Transcultural Music Review 8 (2004).

of affective mobilization most faithful specifically to the interests of the working class', 26 and can be heard in films from different producers - both national and international - during the moments when the international columns are shown. Examples include the Anarchist documentaries Reportaje del movimiento revolucionario de Barcelona (CNT-FAI, 1936), Alas Negras (SIE Films 1937), Los Aguiluchos de las FAI por tierras de Aragón (SUEP, 1936), the Izquierda Republicana production (18 de Julio) Nº 2 Madrid, and Ispania (Mosfilm, 1939). The latter is a production from the USSR with music by Gavriil Nikolayevich Popov, which, besides The Internationale, includes several Spanish traditional songs among the original compositions for the documentary.²⁷

Thus, it is apparent that the International Brigades are musically represented through anthems, these being easily recognizable elements for the documentaries' intended audiences and fulfilling the propagandistic aims in a very direct way. At this point, it is worth examining how such direct propaganda - which could even be described as over-obvious - could have been efficient. As William Brown suggests, without a critical and analytical perspective, we only 'label as propaganda that with which we disagree'. 28 For this reason, the audience for whom these documentaries were intended would have accepted the information presented in the documentary as truthful and constructive without calling it into question, and would have empathized with the main characters, despite the obviousness of the productions. Yet if audiences were not prepared to sympathize with the cause, then the music of the documentaries faced the quandary of how to be credible and convincing. In this sense, audiovisual languages have created a series of codes through which the real sounds of everyday life are 'rendered' and modified by enriching them with a large number of sound effects and studio filters. Music edited for film purposes has overridden 'our own experience . . . becoming our reference for reality itself.²⁹ Accordingly, it is easy to imagine a group of soldiers singing to boost morale before battle, so music would not be alien to the scene, and this music, in fact, does not even have to be diegetic. In this case, we could refer to this musical moment as 'would-be-diegetic' music, a term coined by Guido Heldt to refer to music 'that does not have a diegetic source but that we can imagine could occur at the diegesis at this point'. 30 We thus have a scene that seeks to be real with sound that *might* be present on the screen, and in which the propaganda is the very fact that the anthem plays without the spectator perceiving it as an out-of-place element. If, in addition, the anthems have been chosen so that the audience will not only recognize them but also identify with them - thus adding the

²⁶ Dana L. Cloud and Kathleen Eaton Feyh, 'Reason in Revolt: Emotional Fidelity and Working Class Standpoint in the "Internationale", Rhetoric Society Quarterly 45/4 (2015), 301.

²⁷ An example of the selection is the popular Galician Cantiga Xa ven o tempo de mazar o liño (It is Time to Beat the Linen) sung a capella by a female choir, which opens the documentary while the images show a group of women working in the countryside. The music for this documentary appears as an independent work in Popov's catalogue as 'Ispaniya [Spain], 7 symphonic fragments', Grove Music Online, 2001, www.oxfordmusiconline.com.

²⁸ William Brown, 'He(u)Retical Film Theory: When Cognitivism Meets Theory', in The Anthem Handbook of Screen Theory, ed. Hunter Vaughan and Tom Conley (London: Anthem Press, 2018), 284.

²⁹ Michel Chion, Audio-Vision. Sound on Screen (New York: Columbia University Press, 1993), 108.

³⁰ Guido Heldt, Music and Levels of Narration in Film (Bristol and Chicago: Intellect, 2013), 68.

emotional component - then its effectiveness is guaranteed. In this sense, we can also find examples of composers seeking to make the audience empathize with the characters of the film - and the film's perspective - such as Hans Eisler, who wrote film music during the 1930s and used military songs prominently as they 'work so effectively to arouse feelings for the "right cause", making audiences react with "uncritical emotion". 31

Germany overtakes Spain: composing for the screen

As a counterpart to the filmography created to praise the International Brigades and to request international aid for the Republic, several documentaries showing international troops' involvement in Spain were produced in Germany, the main Françoist ally during the war. Beyond the company Hispano Film Produktion - discussed later - German producers shot several films that portrayed the day-to-day life of the Condor Legion - a German militia that became the most lethal airborne force in the conflict - with the aim of raising awareness of the situation in Spain.³²

Nevertheless, the most renowned documentary from the Nationalist side is the co-production by Hispania Film Produktion and Bavaria Filmkunst titled España heroica (1938).³³ It is a 77-minute compilation documentary with music by Walter Winnig. Winnig was in charge of composing the music for all the Hispano Film Produktion documentaries and several productions by the German company UFA. Besides writing for newsreels and documentaries, he composed music for German and French fiction films during the 1930s, and previously - during the silent film years - he worked as film orchestra conductor and was president of the German Association of Film Theatre Orchestra Conductors (Kinokapellmeister).³⁴

The film is strongly counterpropagandistic³⁵ and many of the images come from preexisting Republican material retrieved by the so-called Brigadas de Recuperación, ³⁶ who simply updated it by changing the soundtrack and narration. Thus, the sections related to the Republicans modify the left-leaning originals by using dissonant music that lacks defined melodic lines, and with timbral and harmonic instability instead of employing tonal and

³¹ Claudia Gorbman, 'Hans Eisler in Hollywood', Screen 32/3 (1991), 280.

³² Two of the most notable films are Deutsche Freiwillige in Spanien (Vom Kampf der Legion Condor, 1939) (German Volunteers in Spain (The Fight of the Condor Legion, 1939)) with music by Ernst Erich Buder, and the documentary Im Kampf gegen den Weltfeind: Deutsche Freiwillige in Spanien (In the Fight against the World's Enemy: German Volunteers in Spain) (1939), with music by Herbert Windt (both composers are familiar with writing soundtracks and renowned for their political involvement with the Third Reich). Nevertheless, neither of these two German films was released in Spain as they would be reliable proof that Germany did not respect the Non-Intervention Agreement and had provided material and human resources to the Francoist side during the war. Nicolás Meseguer, La intervención velada, 288-9.

³³ This was followed by two German versions of the film, titled Helden in Spanien (Heroes in Spain), and released in 1938 and 1939, respectively.

³⁴ Nicolás Meseguer, 'Las relaciones cinematográficas hispano-alemanas', 681.

³⁵ The term 'counterpropaganda' refers to practices that sought to dismantle the theses of the adversary.

³⁶ The Brigadas de Recuperación were in charge of gathering materials that might be valuable from city ruins: they collected everything from metal to turn into ammunition to reels of film.

accessible music. In contrast, the images that show Françoist Spain present music mainly articulated by brass fanfares, with tonal and simple harmonies and clearly identifiable melodic lines, as well as the use of the two representative anthems of the regime: La marcha Real and Cara al sol. Originally an eighteenth-century military march, La marcha Real is the current Spanish national anthem, ³⁷ while *Cara al Sol* was the anthem of Falange Española ³⁸ – based on a song entitled Amanecer, by Juan Tellería. 39 In a similar way to the use of Himno de riego in Republican productions, these two anthems (and in particular the Marcha Real) occupy a pre-eminent place in Françoist productions, usually appearing in their entirety at the end of the films. On some occasions, the anthem is accompanied by a superimposed photograph of the Generalisimo, as in the fictional documentary Ya viene el cortejo (1939).

A particularly relevant element in this documentary is how Winnig makes modifications to the Marcha Real as it is likely that a Spanish musician in charge of the film production and composition would never have dared to modify such a nationally iconic piece of music.⁴⁰

Example 141 shows how Winnig's musical theme begins with the second phrase of the original anthem, repeating the motif twice and connecting it - with an original harmonic modulation to the III degree - to a fragment that does not exist in the original. After two bars, Winnig presents the beginning of the Marcha Real, thus showing the German composer's deep appreciation and knowledge of the emblem representative of the political faction lauded in the documentary.

Regarding the original composition for España heroica, both the German and Spanish press reported that Winnig sent Franco a score with a personalized inscription for one of the film's marches. On 31 August 1936, the ABC newspaper in its Madrid - and Republican – edition references a march titled Adelante bajo las órdenes del general Franco as the 'characteristic march' gifted to him by Winnig. The completely irreverent news report

³⁷ Although its origin is uncertain and shrouded in myths and legends, it is known to be an eighteenth-century military call titled La marcha granadera. As a military march, it had no lyrics, and so it remains to this day, being one of the few anthems in the world that cannot be sung with associated words. One of these legends - recently disproved - is the suggestion that the March was a gift to Carlos III from Frederick II of Prussia. For more on this topic, see Begoña Lolo, 'El himno', in Símbolos de España (Madrid: Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales, 1999), 379-84.

³⁸ Falange Española was a far-right party that took part in the 1936 coup, supported the Françoist side during the war, and functioned as a propaganda machine during the years of the dictatorship.

³⁹ Its lyrics were jointly written by Jose Antonio Primo de Rivera (founder of the Falange) and the poet Agustín de Foxá, among others. For more information on the composer and the anthem's genesis, see Javier Suárez-Pajares, 'El compositor vasco Juan Tellería y su tiempo. Reflexiones después del centenario', Cuadernos de Música Iberoamericana 1 (1996).

⁴⁰ The anthem's official score can be found at Boletín Oficial del Estado, 'REAL DECRETO 1560/1997, de 10 de octubre por el que se regula el Himno Nacional', Boletín Oficial del Estado, 11 October 1997, 29596-29600, www.boe.es/boe/ dias/1997/10/11/pdfs/A29594-29600.pdf.

⁴¹ All the musical examples are aural transcriptions taken directly from the films. A literal transcription was not carried out as the original sound contained oscillations in pitch likely due to the speed variations in the recording and reproduction equipment causing abrupt changes and extreme tonalities. Instead, it was decided to homogenize the harmony by using proximate tonalities that may have originally been used as they would make for a more coherent - and more playable - piece of music. It is worth stressing that this is an approximation of the original presented as an illustrative reference for readers.



Example 1 Some of Winnig's modifications to the *Marcha Real*.

compares Franco to a 'maleta', which literally means "suitcase" in Spanish, but at the time it was also slang for a lousy bullfighter.

FRANCO RECEIVES A DEDICATED MARCH, LIKE ANY OTHER 'MALETA'. 42

Paris 30. Pro-fascist newspapers have reported that Franco sent a letter to the German musician Walter Winnig thanking him for sending the music of a military march entitled Adelante bajo las órdenes del general Franco [Forward under the command of General Franco]. The leader tells the German musician that this will become an official march in the Françoist army, which will parade to the beat of German music.43

The original score to which these documents refer has not been found, so they could point to any of the moments when the original soundtrack takes up a march tempo.

Two days later, the front page of the same daily newspaper included an illustration by Aníbal Tejada, which humorously disparages the quality of the music while ridiculing Franco (Figure 1). It is a pun on the term 'march' in Spanish, which can refer to both a musical piece and being up for a good time.

Filmic tropes

A call for international aid: propaganda with children on the Republican side

One of the common topics deployed in Spanish-produced films was the children's situation. Showing children in a climate of war evokes sadness and enhances empathy and compassion in viewers, whether the infants were shown in adverse situations or merely surrounded by an unfair war that should be alien to innocent creatures - and thus, this topic became an ideal trope for film producers.

On the Republican side, political parties and unions adhering to the cause promoted different styles of propaganda in their films, producing content suited to their principles and ideals. While the anarchists' documentaries by the CNT (National Confederation of Labour) were straightforward, aggressive, and full of battle-exhorting anthems, other

⁴² In Spain, bullfighters are commonly honoured with the composition of marchas or pasodobles, which are then performed in the bullring during bullfights.

^{43 &#}x27;A Franco, como a un maleta cualquiera, le dedican una marcha', in ABC Doble Diario de la Guerra Civil, Fascicle 67 (Madrid: Prensa Española, S. A., 1979), 20.



Figure 1 'Caricatura del día' ABC (Madrid edition), 2 September 1938. 'I'll also give you a good . . . march!' German music and Spanish 'music'.

campaigns, such as the one promoted by the Propaganda Section of the Euskadi government, intended to represent the Basque Country as a moderate and Catholic region, thereby refuting the Francoists' allegation that being Republican was incompatible with Catholic morals. The documentaries aimed to 'present the Basques as peaceable, hardworking people with their own culture, in order to persuade public opinion around the world that the Republic respects freedom of worship and to denounce the bombings and destruction of the Françoist army'.44

The most remarkable Basque production, in musical terms, is Elai-Alai (1937), a montage film starring a children's dance group with the same name as the documentary's title. 45 The

⁴⁴ Emeterio Díez, 'La política cinematográfica del primer gobierno de Euskadi: la gerencia de espectáculos públicos (1936-1937)', Ikusgaiak 5 (2001), 118.

⁴⁵ The group Elai Alai was exiled in France from June 1937. They usually performed together with the adult choir Eresoinka and toured several French towns to spread propaganda for the Republic and to raise funds to help Basque refugees. Santiago de Pablo, Tierra sin paz. Guerra Civil, cine y propaganda en el País Vasco (Madrid: Editorial Biblioteca Nueva, 2006), 147.

first and last sequences are made up of images of the Basque Country, although the soundtrack of these moments is not preserved. The middle section, the most extensive part of the documentary, is set inside a theatre, where the children perform their musical acts. There is no script to provide narrative justification for the scene since its primary intention is to show the traditions of the Basque people, and specifically to obtain financial aid for the refugee children. To this effect, the group Elai Alai presents a series of traditional songs and dances played with txistus, tamboriles, 46 and voices, among which are a Zuberoa dance, the Txakolín song, the Ikurrina Dantza, and the Aurresku dance. 47 The musical selection is not accidental, since each number represents a characteristic or tradition that belongs to the Basque people. Evidence of this is provided by a transcription of a fragment that describes the Aurresku in the magazine Euskal-Erria in 1897:

The Aurresku . . . reflects the character of the Basque race in such a way that the legitimacy of its origin cannot be doubted. Only in beings of such savage historical independence whose impregnable fortresses were bestowed by the hand of God in the form of inaccessible mountains . . . of such extravagant love for their own and such great respect for that which symbolizes authority . . . only in beings of this nature could a dance be conceived that is at once a simulacrum of war, a tribute to courtesy and a homage to authority.⁴⁸

A similar example can be found in the film Guernika (1937) which reflects the consequences of the widely known aerial bombing on the population, focusing on the children's new lives in exile. The first sequence of the film, which displays images of daily life before the bombing, shows a group of children dancing the traditional Arku Dantza (dance of the arrows). The second part of the documentary shows a battle scene with no music, and in the third sequence, while the narrator explains that 'England and France humanely shelter with their ships the departure of the Basque children', some girls dance the Zinta Dantza (dance of the ribbons) dressed in traditional costumes. Thus, the film shows the most notable characteristics of the Basque people in the eyes of international propaganda, including their folk music tradition.

It was not only the Euskadi government that used the expatriated children as propaganda. Sunshine in Shadow (1938) is another documentary starring children, produced by the Ministry of Public Instruction but with English direction and distribution.⁴⁹ The film was

⁴⁶ A txistu is a woodwind instrument with a treble tessitura played with the left hand. Its main sonorous peculiarity lies in its metallic reed and the fact that it is accompanied by a tamboril (portable snare drum) played with the musician's right hand.

⁴⁷ The Zuberoa dance still survives in the province of the same name and is part of the traditional Maskaradas festival held during the days of Carnival. Young people dance in the town squares and play different roles, such as shepherds, blacksmiths, or chimneysweeps. The tune Txakolín jokily portrays the effects of txacolí wine; the Ikurrina Dantza (Flag Dance) is usually an introductory dance; and the Aurresku is one of the main dances in the Basque folk tradition. The term Aurresku refers to 'the first' or 'first hand', indicating the importance of the principal dancer.

⁴⁸ Ángel María Castell, 'El Aurresku', Euskal-Erria: revista vascongada San Sebastián 37 (1897), 568.

⁴⁹ The existence of a Spanish copy is still unknown, and the English copy studied for the present project is available at Filmoteca Nacional. Alfonso del Amo García and Maria Luisa Ibáñez Ferradas, Catálogo general del cine de la Guerra Civil española (Madrid: Ed. Cátedra, 1996), 831-2.

planned to be promoted in England as it complied with the strict conditions of the British Council, which dictated that 'no film could be shown that contained subversive material, [that] could jeopardize public peace or offend public sensibilities'. ⁵⁰ Thus, most of the footage shows different situations of the daily life of the more than three thousand Spanish orphans living as refugees in England. The music was composed by Rodolfo Halffter – one of the founders of the Alliance of Antifascist Intellectuals and head of the music department of the Undersecretariat of Propaganda.⁵¹ His involvement with the Republican cause can be established – in addition to his politically held positions – through his participation in the composition of the soundtrack of three documentaries: La mujer y la guerra (1938), the aforementioned Sunshine in Shadow and Sanidad en el frente y la retaguardia (1937), the latter being a production by Film Popular that also involves children in its plot. Sunshine in Shadow is a documentary structured in two sequences. At the beginning of the first, the narrator begins his speech by guiding the viewers on what they will observe throughout the documentary:

'Children in most parts of the world are safely in their own homes and in their families' care. Spanish children were that way too a long time ago.'

The images show a tree-lined street, an almost idyllic place, where children play outside. The music in this sequence uses as its main theme an orchestrated version of the traditional children's song 'Quisiera ser tan alto como la luna' ('I Wish I Were as Tall as the Moon').⁵² After the introduction, the atmosphere of placidity is wholly lost, as the film now tries to show the harsher side of the war. During the second sequence, the music has an ABA structure, each section corresponding to different subject matter from the images. Music in section A is based on the four-bar motif shown in Example 2: a brass instrumental military march with solid accompaniment and with complementary long notes on woodwind and strings playing trills.

⁵⁰ Laura López-Martín, 'Help Spain by Showing Films. British Film Production for Humanitarian Aid during the Spanish Civil War', Culture & History Digital Journal, 8(2)/e19 (2019), https://doi.org/10.3989/chdj.2019.019.

⁵¹ The Undersecretariat of Propaganda was an institution belonging to the State Ministry, which was active from 1937 to 1939. It supervised the 'press, artistic events, radio broadcasting, cinematography, photography, and phonography'. Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte, 'Institución - Ministerio de Estado. Subsecretaría de Propaganda', http://pares. mcu.es/ParesBusquedas20/catalogo/autoridad/64283. Halffter's actions in favour of the Republic resulted in him going into exile in Mexico at the end of the war. There, he became a prominent figure on the music scene and lived out the rest of his days. Román Gubern and Paul Hammod, Luis Buñuel. The Red Years (1929-1939) (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2012), 293.

⁵² As Ruiz explains, for listeners familiar with it, this song refers to warlike confrontations; in this case to the so-called Catalan Uprising or Guerra del Segadors (Reapers' War), which took place in 1640. The complete lyrics are: 'I wish I were as tall as the moon / to see the soldiers of Catalonia / from Catalonia I come / to serve the King / and I bring my colonel's licence.' Although it is impossible to confirm whether the historical meaning of the song was part of the composer's intention, the reason for appropriating this specific popular children's song becomes clear during first shots of the documentary, as the hyperbole 'to be as high as the moon' could be understood to refer to wishes that cannot be fulfilled. María Jesús Ruiz, 'La carta del Rey ha venido. . . la guerra en el cancionero popular infantil hispánico', in Presencia del cancionero popular infantil en la lírica hispánica, ed. Pedro Cerillo and César Sánchez (Ciudad Real: Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, 2013), 211-12.



Example 2 The first musical theme of the second sequence (section A).

The images show explosions and planes flying overhead, but no civilian population is (yet) presented.

Section B begins with the most striking shots of the documentary: smoke coming from a burning house, women with mournful expressions, and a man holding the corpse of a little girl in his arms. Musically, the mourning is illustrated through ascending and descending chromatic scales and dissonant chords played on strings and woodwind, although a major tonality can be perceived during the last bars, which may provide a sense of hope.

However, just after this, section A returns while the images show people with suitcases, waiting for buses, children boarding various buses, and posters by the Evacuation Department. The music of this section is thus again associated with the implications of war and mass farewells as families wave off their children. It is worth noting that this moment of partings does not aim for pathos: the images - introduced within the same military theme heard at the beginning of the scene - make it clear that the children's exile is just one more consequence of war, and that - just as soldiers die on the battlefield defending their ideals the situation's implications should not be considered dramatic, but heroic.

The second sequence, showing the daily life of the refugee children, is the longest of the documentary. This sequence is divided into thematic scenes, each describing regular activities in the children's daily lives: waking up (Example 3), washing, medical care, education, mealtimes, exchanging letters with their families, learning trades, sports, music, and rest. Each of the activities is associated with a different musical theme.⁵³

Children and families: the Nationalist point of view

Unlike Republican productions, none of the storylines in the documentaries made by the Nationalist side centre on children. Preferring not to show them in vulnerable situations such as during assessments or exile, they were instead portrayed as part of and protected by their families, and as brave youngsters who, despite being innocents, already share the ideology they have to defend in the war. This was endorsed by the family of Franco himself, who used his daughter Carmencita to present a speech in the conserved fragments of film titled Franco en Salamanca.⁵⁴ In them, she says, 'I ask God not to allow the children of the

⁵³ The fact that each scene corresponds to a distinct musical theme means that it fulfils a 'structural function'. According to Román, music fulfils this function by supporting the shift of one scene or another, thus introducing a new filmic event. Music 'is used to mark the development of a new plot or change of scene'. Alejandro Román, El lenguaje musivisual (Madrid: Visión Libros, 2008), 126-7.

⁵⁴ These fragments filmed in 1937 were possibly prepared to be sent to news broadcasts around the world, and were designed to internationally affirm Franco's position as head of the Spanish State. Rafael Tranche and Vicente Sánchez-Biosca, El pasado es destino: propaganda y cine del bando nacional en la Guerra Civil (Madrid: Cátedra, 2011), 303-5.



Example 3 First bars from the first scene of the second sequence of *Sunshine in Shadow*, coinciding with images of the children waking up.

world to know the suffering and sadness of the children still in the power of the enemies of my homeland.' In this case, in addition to the indeterminate and generic message, the images do not show anything that could be related to children suffering. A static mid shot shows Franco and his family: the Caudillo standing and his wife seated with Carmencita leaning against her lap. There is no music in the sequence as the focus is on the spoken word, with only the first fragment of the footage being scored. Here, La marcha Real is superimposed over images of a crowded parade held in Salamanca for the visiting Franco.

Children representing the youth sections of the Nationalist organizations that included both boys and girls, albeit separately, were often shown in parades. On these occasions, the music preserves the usual clichés that accompany such events: brass fanfares and anthems.

The well-being of the prisoners

The subject of how prisoners of war were treated on each side was of great interest, as it allowed both factions to show the world their humanity and clemency towards soldiers captured in combat. On the Republican side, this was carried out through several documentaries, such as Nos Prissioners (1937), produced by the Subcommissariat of Agitation, Press and Propaganda of the General Commissariat of War. This documentary, whose French title already indicates that it was intended to be broadcast internationally, is based on three interviews with prisoners: a Falangist nurse and two Italian soldiers. During these scenes, the focus on the spoken word and the absence of music serves as a means of reflecting the verisimilitude of the facts, 55 as music could have given the images a certain air of fiction that was of no interest for the purposes of the documentary. The remaining footage complies with the general characteristics of Republican films: the use of anthems and the presence of both music and narrator as the axis of the discourse.

To counteract the weight of the Republican propaganda campaign, the Nationalist faction created a documentary illustrating the situation and treatment of prisoners in the camps and hospitals on the Nationalist side. The film, titled Prisioneros de guerra, was produced in 1938 in Lisbon and distributed by Hispania Tobis.⁵⁶ In this case – with the exception of the opening shots - the music moves away from the fanfares and grandiloquent anthems and displays a guitar, solo at first and then accompanying a male voice. This instrument, as an intrinsic

⁵⁵ Chion, Audio-Vision, 95.

⁵⁶ Hispania Tobis was a subsidiary of the German Tobis-Filmkunst, which was responsible of the documentaries Romancero marroquí/Der Stern Von Tetuan (1939) and Nuestra misión/Unsere Aufrag (1939).

cliché of Spanish culture, underlines the sonic identity of the documentary, as it placed both Spanish and foreign men, and even 'reintegrated' Republican prisoners, under the same umbrella. The selected musical theme played on the guitar is neither folkloric nor Spanish, but a potpourri of songs popularized by Carlos Gardel:⁵⁷

Hoy, después de un año atroz te vi pasar me mordí pa' [sic] no llamarte ibas linda como un sol, se paraban a mirarte.⁵⁸ [Today, after an atrocious year, I saw you passing by I bit myself so I wouldn't call you you were as pretty as sunshine they stood and stared at you.]

Gardel enjoyed outstanding popularity throughout Hispanic America. As well as the indisputable success of his songs, which were regularly broadcast in almost all countries, he starred in nine films – made for Paramount in Paris and New York. These productions⁵⁹ have been said to be 'authentic transnational Hispanic cinema [detached] from the constraints of the national through the Hispanic audience's auditory identification with them'. 60 It is therefore no surprise that the Nationalists used the figure of Gardel in a documentary about prisoners of war seeking to depict redemption and union as the character who, in his time, symbolized the construction of a collective Hispanic auditory identity.

The fame of the songs, coupled with the fact that the two soldiers that feature in the scene have their backs to the camera, means that the music takes priority over the performers. Moreover, the ambiguity of the lyrics could represent any soldier, thus activating the music's propagandistic function to promote identification and social cohesion, in this case to bring people together.61

Conclusions

Intending to show the critical situation of the Spanish Civil War worldwide, both the Françoist and Republican factions established internationally premiered documentaries as the key components of their propagandistic machinery in the hope of convincing foreign

⁵⁷ The popular singer had died in Medellín (Colombia) a year before the outbreak of war, and posthumously, his fame grew exponentially.

⁵⁸ Fragment of the tango Confesión, by Enrique Santos Discépolo, with lyrics by Luis César Amadori in 1930. The reproduced lyrics correspond with the beginning of the sung part of the documentary.

⁵⁹ With the beginning of sound cinema and the impossibility of directly exporting products in English to Spanish-speaking markets, the start of the 1930s saw the production of so-called 'Hispanic versions' of successful Hollywood films with figures that were well known on both sides of the Atlantic.

⁶⁰ Marvin D'Lugo, 'Gardel, el film hispano y la construcción de la identidad auditiva', in Cine, nación y nacionalidades en España, ed. Nancy Berthier and Jean-Claude Seguin (Madrid: Casa de Velázques, 2007), 158.

⁶¹ Muñiz Velázquez, 'La música en el sistema propagandístico franquista', 350.

countries of the need for international intervention. The films aimed to persuade the audiences to actively participate in the war, either through economic contributions or in a more direct way by joining the armies. To reinforce this end, the documentaries' music made use of different propagandistic resources depending on the topic of the film and the target audience. The use of the representative anthems of the political parties and labour unions that produced the films was one of the main techniques. Thus, audiences would not only recognize the signature of the production company but also be emotionally linked to the images due to the persuasion and credibility-enhancing capacities of the music. Other sonic characteristics shared by the films were the absence of music to create a verisimilar ambience in scenes of combat and interviews. Finally, it can be said that although the use of pre-existing music set the general tone of the documentaries from both factions – as it was the most economical way of putting music to the images, original music was also widely used in the productions. The participation of foreign composers is remarkable, as – besides being an example of the international involvement the films set out to achieve - they showed their commitment to the cause of whichever side they were composing for by including traditional and folkloric music of the regions pictured in the images.

This appropriation of musical traditions by both factions, either as a compilation or as a new version of the original themes, was undertaken with the intention of representing the population and thus gaining their approval.

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