Soundtrack Cue Sheet

Plan before you generate

Project: _____ Total length: _____

1	**Watch and note.** Watch your video, or flip through your slideshow, and write down where the story changes: a new place, a new time of day, a change in mood, the most beautiful or important moment, and the ending.
2	**Fill in the cue sheet.** One row per scene, with its times, what we see, the mood, and the music you want.
3	**Turn scenes into sections.** Each scene becomes a section of the music. Use section labels in the Lyrics box to request the changes (Chapter 9).

Scene	Start	End	What we see	Mood	Music
1	0:00				
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
Key moment (the “wow” shot)					

AI music won’t hit exact seconds. It can follow the general shape of your plan, quiet then lively then grand then gentle, but it can’t place a change at precisely 1:15. Adjust the pictures and the music to fit each other. A plan that’s close is all you need.

Example and Scorecard

“A Week in the Mountains”: a three-minute mountain vacation video

Scene	Start–End	What we see	Mood	Music
1. Departure	0:00–0:30	Packing the car, the open road at dawn	Anticipation	Soft piano, gently building
2. On the road	0:30–1:15	Highway views, small towns, a roadside diner	Cheerful, carefree	Acoustic guitar and light percussion join
3. Arrival	1:15–2:15	Mountain peaks, a lake, wildflowers, a summit hike	Majestic, joyful	Full orchestra; the theme at its grandest
4. Farewell	2:15–3:00	Campfire, sunset, the drive home	Warm, reflective	Strings and piano settle; gentle ending
Key moment	~1:45	Summit view	Wonder	Musical peak

The Soundtrack Scorecard

Question	Score
Fit: Does the music suit the place and the mood of the trip?	___ / 5
Timing: Do the musical changes match the scene changes?	___ / 5
Balance: Can I hear any speech clearly? Does the music support rather than overpower?	___ / 5
Emotion: Does the key moment feel special?	___ / 5
Ending: Do the music and pictures finish together?	___ / 5
Total	**___ / 25**

Six Synchronization Techniques

☐	**Start the music** on the first frame, or just before it, with a fade-in of one or two seconds.
☐	**Place the big musical moment on the best shot.** Move your “wow” shot to land on the music’s climax.
☐	**Cut on the beat.** Change photos or clips on a strong beat; the tall peaks in the waveform are often beats.
☐	**Adjust the pictures, not just the music.** Lengthen or shorten a few clips by a second or two.
☐	**Lower the music under speech** wherever someone talks, then bring it back up (ducking).
☐	**End together.** Trim the music to finish with the final image, adding a two- to four-second fade-out if needed.