Music
Patrick Flynn

Aboriginal Songs and Didgeridoo
David Gulpilil

Traditional Songs
Danny Spooner
Music Recording and Sound Mixing
United Sound

The pamphlet for the film provides the following details in relation to the score:

The score for Mad Dog was researched, arranged and conducted by Patrick Flynn, and consists mainly of pieces of music which are historically related to the period and story of Mad Dog. These include:

**Catholic Hymns:** Two catholic hymns played frequently in the church Morgan attended as a boy. They are the Dies Irae, a traditional seventh century plain-chant; and the Ave Verum Corpus, the last piece of music Mozart wrote before his death.

**The Boolavogue:** An ancient Gaelic tune brought to Australia by Irish migrants in the nineteenth century.

**Military Quadrille:** The first piece of music known to have been written in Australia. Called "La Sydney", this quadrille was extensively used by police, regimental and military bands.

**The Didgeridoo:** The sound of this traditional aboriginal instrument is used throughout Mad Dog. Played by David Gulpilil, the didgeridoo is a tube instrument fashioned from wood, usually 4-5 feet in length, and 2-3 inches in diameter. A resonating sound is produced by blowing through one end.

Patrick Flynn, a well known Australian composer, was born in Birmingham in 1936. His work includes the scores for the films Sunday Too Far Away, and Caddie.

Believing there was a prejudice against him for his show successes - one potential employer told him it was a long way from Superstar to Stravinsky - he headed to work in New York, acting as the staff conductor with the American Ballet Theatre, and working for various other companies as conductor and musical director.

There is an obituary for Flynn in the Sydney Morning Herald on the third of November 2008, *Music made his world go around.*

Flynn also has a wiki [here](#).

*(Below: Patrick Flynn)*
David Gulpilil, as well as starring in the film, provided the didgeridoo music which ran over the opening titles, and appears elsewhere in the movie.

Gulpilil first attracted attention with his remarkable performance in *Walkabout*, and he has a wiki [here](#). He would also have a strong impact in *Storm Boy*.

The use of the didgeridoo, which has regional significance, caused some controversy, with *Sydney Morning Herald* critic Helen Frizell awarding the film the Order of the Didgeridoo on 13th July 1976:

*After seeing Mad Dog Morgan at the Sydney Film Festival (I was asked not to review it until the time of its commercial release), I said it deserved the Order of the Didgeridoo. Explanation of this comes now. The film introduces a part-Aboriginal, Billy (David Gulpilil), who becomes Morgan's companion. In their hide-outs around the Riverina, Billy teaches bush survival techniques to Morgan, and plays a few tunes on the didgeridoo as well. The sound is magnificent - but it would never have been heard in those regions.*
Draw a straight line across Australia from Broome (WA) to Ingham (Queensland). Only north of that line did the didgeridoo sound. Thus, the playing of the didgeridoo in the Riverina is ludicrous.

Others dismissed this as academic pedantry, all the more so because Gulpilil as a northern Yolngu man initiated into the Mandhalpuyngu language group, with the eagle as his totem and his homeland Marwuyu agreed to provide the music as a form of dramatic license to add to the film's impact and to evoke the relationship between Morgan and his Aboriginal companion.