# New Golden Age of Film

1934-1944

### Classical Film Score of the 1930s

- Extensive use of music
- Full range of orchestral colors
- Relied on melody-dominant post-romantic style
- Principal themes and moods were established during the opening credits
- Musical support for moods, settings, characters and action
- Frequent borrowing of familiar melodies
- Unity through leitmotifs and thematic transformation

## **Important Films**

- 1935
  - Mutiny on the Bounty, Herbert Stothart
  - The Informer, Max Steiner
  - Bride of Frankenstein, Franz Waxman
- 1937
  - Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
- 1938
  - The Adventures of Robin Hood, Erich Korngold

#### **Animated Features**

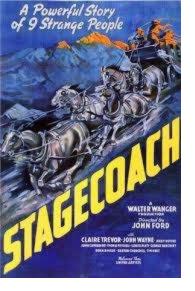
- Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was the first full-length animated film (1937)
  - Earned more money than any film in the 1930s except for Gone with the Wind
  - Music plays throughout
    - Distinction between developed songs sung by <u>humans</u> and simple tunes for the <u>dwarfs</u>
- Disney animated films were the top three grossing films in the 1940s (*Pinnochio, Dumbo, Bambi*)
- Disney stopped making feature films during WWII to make cartoons that supported the war effort

# 1939: Hollywood's Greatest Year

- Significant Films:
  - Mr. Smith Goes to Washington
  - Stagecoach
  - Wuthering Heights
  - The Wizard of Oz
  - Gone With the Wind

#### Adapted Scores: large portion of borrowed content

- Mr. Smith Goes to Washington
  - Score by Dmitri Tiomkin
  - Very little underscoring because:
    - Type of comedy → little underscoring
    - Populist film about the common man→ simple music
    - <u>Little music due to the film taking place in the U.S.</u>
      Senate
      - People felt is was inappropriate to have music playing for scenes in government buildings
  - The music that is used is adapted from American patriotic melodies



## Stagecoach



- -Adapted Score by Richard Hageman
- -Stagecoach is the first great Western
- Score based on cowboy and folk tunes
- Hageman placed a lyrical tune over a fastpaced accompaniment
  - Became a cliché in Westerns
- Effectively uses music to show contrast between the stagecoach and Indians

# Original Scores in 1939

- Wuthering Heights
  - Score by Alfred Newman
  - Heathcliff, a poor boy of unknown origins is rescued from poverty and taken in by a family where he develops an intense relationship with his foster sister, Cathy.
  - Story and the weather focuses on the characters' conflict,
    the music focuses on their love
    - Music written mostly for strings
  - Cathy's <u>love theme</u> dominates the film and even plays through when she dies
    - <u>waltz</u>



#### Wizard of Oz

- Greatest film musical of the 1930s
- Harold Arlen: wrote the songs
- Herbert Stothart: adapted the songs and wrote the underscoring
- Over the Rainbow is the most fully developed song
  - other songs are catchy tunes: <u>Ding Dong, Yellow Brick</u>, We're Off to See the Wizard
  - Full song in Kansas, short songs in Oz
- Also borrows from classical pieces



### Gone With the Wind

- Score by Max Steiner (one of 12 he did that year)
  - Wrote 3 hrs 45 min of music in 4 weeks
  - Was also working on another score and supervising the recording of both works
- Quoted familiar music (Dixie, Taps, etc)
- Used long melodies for themes.

