

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 [humans](#) and simple tunes for the [dwarfs](#)
- 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
 - Little music due to the film taking place in the U.S. Senate
 - People felt it 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 fast-paced 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 [love theme](#) dominates the film and even plays through when she dies
 - [waltz](#)

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: Ding Dong, Yellow Brick, 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**

