



Smithsonian Associates

## Magnificent Movie Music: Classical Sounds of the Cinema

*Dr. Rachel Franklin*

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 - 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET

### **FEB 7 Classical Crossovers**

Shostakovich, Vaughan Williams, Korngold, Bernstein, Copland, Corigliano, Walton, and Prokofiev—each a 20th-century giant of the concert hall—all composed superb movie music. Writing for film was very attractive to many concert composers. They saw film as an important medium, and their experiments in crafting new composing techniques for the screen influenced later soundtrack superstars such as John Williams. However, French composer Camille Saint-Saëns takes the laurels for the first ever score composed specifically for a film!

### **Films discussed**

***“The Assassination of the Duke of Guise”*** Le Film d’Art, 1908

w. the company of la Comédie-Française, synchronized w. Camille Saint-Saëns score, Op. 128

- Ensemble Musique Oblique

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyfO06O8nTQ>

***“The Red Violin”*** Lionsgate, 1998

Director: Francois Girard

Composer: John Corigliano\*

Academy Awards: Best Original Score\*

***“Lieutenant Kijé”*** Belgoskino, 1934

Director: Aleksandr Faintsimmer

Composer: Sergei Prokofiev

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zPLAFDW0B8>

***“Alexander Nevsky”*** Mosfilm, 1938

Director: Sergei Eisenstein

Composer: Sergei Prokofiev

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gq4PaJfod4w>

***“Henry V”*** Two Cities Films/Arthur Rank, 1944

Director: Laurence Olivier

Composer: William Walton

Academy Awards: Honorary Award to Laurence Olivier, for his outstanding achievement as actor, producer and director in bringing 'Henry V' to the screen.

***“Hamlet”*** Lenfilm, 1964

Director: Grigori Kozintsev

Composer: Dmitri Shostakovich

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzN1isLYc\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzN1isLYc_A)

***“Scott of the Antarctic”*** Ealing Studios, 1948

Director: Charles Frend

Composer: Ralph Vaughan Williams

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7b6BOI1jGBM>

Vaughan Williams: Symphony No. 7, Sinfonia Antartica, 1952

- Andre Previn, London Symphony Orchestra, spoken excerpts Ralph Richardson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=anDkHMBYbLI>

***“The Red Pony”*** Republic Pictures, 1949

Director: Lewis Milestone

Composer: Aaron Copland

***“The Heiress”*** Paramount, 1949

Director: William Wyler

Composer: Aaron Copland\*

Academy Awards: Best Actress, Best Art Direction, Best Musical Scoring\*, Best Costume

Design

***“On the Waterfront”*** Columbia Pictures, 1954

Director: Elia Kazan

Composer: Leonard Bernstein

Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Original Screenplay, Best Supporting Actress, Best Art Direction, Best Cinematography, Best Editing

***“The Adventures of Robin Hood”*** Warner Brothers, 1938

Director: Michael Curtiz

Composer: Erich Wolfgang Korngold\*

Academy Award: Best Music: original score\*, Best Art Direction, Best Film Editing

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## **Rachel Franklin**

British-born classical and jazz concert pianist Dr. Rachel Franklin is a renowned performer and public speaker. Her acclaimed wit, scholarship and insights about music have led to countless speaking engagements for such distinguished organizations as the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, and National Public Radio. Besides appreciating her performing artistry, her listeners rave about her warm, engaging style as she illustrates on the piano.

Since 2020 she has been greatly in demand for her unique online presentations. She is one of the Smithsonian Associates’ most popular live-streaming music lecturers, and her topics explore intersections between classical and jazz music, film scores, and the fine arts.

Rachel Franklin has recently joined the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra as their Strathmore Music Scholar in Residence, and will be giving all the BSO's pre-concert presentations at their Bethesda, MD venue, Strathmore Hall. Last June she was one of the featured speakers at the Aspen Ideas: Health Conference in Colorado, presenting and performing on the subject of Music and the Natural World, a topic about which she's also been interviewed by WHYY's Maiken Scott for The Pulse. This past New Year she was invited to give the Plenary Lunchtime Performance for the prestigious Renaissance Weekend conference in Charleston, SC.

Rachel's great passion is provoking connections and sparking imaginative pathways for her listeners and students, so their own creativity can be inspired by extraordinary musical art.

She has concertized in major halls across Europe, Canada and the US. The Washington Post has praised her "cool-headed bravura and panache" and the Baltimore Sun lauded "a flawless crystalline technique, and warmth and electricity in her playing."