



Orchestrating Greatness: Movies, Their Music, & the Oscars

Dr. Rachel Franklin

Monday, February 24, 2025 - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. ET

Experiencing a great film score can have a life-long impact. Composers such as Bernard Herrmann, Max Steiner, Ennio Morricone and John Williams have engraved iconic scenes into our collective memory with their extraordinary music, even if the rest of the movie might have faded.

Over the years the Oscars have seen some of the greatest moments in film music history. To celebrate Oscars month, join concert pianist and film music fanatic Dr. Rachel Franklin as she takes us on an immersive journey through 90 years of award-winning movie scores, accompanied by her grand piano and a wide collection of fascinating film clips.

Movies featured

“Casablanca” Warner Brothers, 1942

Director: Michael Curtiz

Composer: Max Steiner

Academy Awards: Outstanding Motion Picture, Best Director, Best Writing/Screenplay

“Jaws” Universal, 1975

Director: Steven Spielberg

*Composer: John Williams**

Academy Awards: Best Original Score, Best Editing, Best Sound

“2001: A Space Odyssey” Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, 1968

Director: Stanley Kubrick

Composers: Richard Strauss, Gyorgy Ligeti, Johann Strauss II, Aram Khatchaturian

Academy Award: Best Visual Effects

Works featured: Richard Strauss – Thus Spake Zarathustra, Op. 30, 1896

Johann Strauss – The Blue Danube, Op. 314, 1866

Alex North – composer of rejected score for this film

“One Night of Love” Columbia Pictures, 1934

Director: Victor Schertzinger

Composer: Alfred Newman

Academy Award: Best Music Scoring, Best Sound Recording

“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*

“The Best Years Of Our Lives” Samuel Goldwyn, 1946

Director: William Wyler

*Composer: Hugo Friedhofer**

Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Director, Best Screenplay,

Best Musical Scoring, Best Film Editing*

“High Noon” United Artists, 1952

Director: Fred Zinnemann

*Composer: Dmitri Tiomkin**

Academy Awards: Best Actor, Best Film Editing, Best Music Scoring, Best Music Song

“Song Without End” Columbia Pictures, 1960

Director: Charles Vidor

*Composers: Morris Stoloff, Harry Sukman, Franz Liszt**

Academy Award: Best Music Score

“Dr. Zhivago” MGM, 1965

Director: David Lean

*Composer: Maurice Jarre**

Academy Awards: Best Cinematography, Best Original Music Score, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Costume Design, Best Production Design

“Star Wars” (later, *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*) 20th Century Fox, 1977

Director: George Lucas

*Composer: John Williams**

Academy Awards: Best Music, Best Art Direction, Best Costume Design, Best Sound, Best Film Editing, Actor, Best Film Editing, Best Visual Effects*

“Purple Rain”, Warners Brothers, 1984

Director: Albert Magnoli

*Composers: Prince, Michel Colombier**

Academy Award: Best Original Song Score

“Up” Pixar/Disney, 2009

Director: Pete Docter.

*Composer: Michael Giacchino**

Academy Awards: Best Animated Feature Film, Best Original Score

“The Social Network” Sony Pictures, 2010

Director: David Fincher

Composers: Edvard Grieg, Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross**

Academy Awards: Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Original Score, Best Film Editing*

Work featured: Grieg – In the Hall of the Mountain King, from Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, Op. 46, 1876

“Joker” Warner Brothers, 2019

Director: Todd Phillips

*Composer: [Hildur Guðnadóttir](#)**

*Academy Awards: Best Actor, Best Original Score**

The Ones That Got Away

“Laura” 20th Century Fox, 1944

Director: Otto Preminger

Composer: David Raksin, (not nominated)

Academy Awards: Best black & white Cinematography

“Anatomy of a Murder” Columbia Pictures, 1959

Director: Otto Preminger

Composer: Duke Ellington

“The Firm” Paramount Pictures, 1993

Director: Sydney Pollack

Composer: Dave Grusin, (nominated)