

Time: 10:30-noon

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Film Music of the 1930s

**I. Announcements**

- A. NJ Symphony Concert at State Theatre, New Brunswick: June 2, 2024, 3 pm

Program: "Epic Scores of John Williams and More"  
Sign the sheet today if you are interested.

**II. Evolution of Film Music**

- A. Silent films—often accompanied by piano, organ and/or ensemble  
B. Late 1920s—advent of sound motion pictures (*The Jazz Singer*, with Al Jolson, was one of the first)  
C. Composers began with brief "overtures" and some small segments to underscore key scenes  
D. Things changed in 1933 with Max Steiner's score for *King Kong*, a dramatic film that represented a departure from the musicals and song-based films which were dominating the film industry once motion pictures embraced sound  
E. From this point onwards, film music was not an "adornment" but rather viewed as central to film production in Hollywood and many other film centers, such as Berlin, Moscow and London

**III. Film Composers (Most employed during the peaks of their careers by Warner Bros.)**

- A. Max Steiner (1888-1971, Austrian-emigrated to the US in 1914)
1. *King Kong* (1933)
  2. *Charge of the Light Brigade* (1937)
  3. *Gone With the Wind* (1939)
- B. Erich Wolfgang Korngold (1897-1957, Austrian-emigrated to the US in 1934)
1. *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938)
  2. *Juarez* (1939)
  3. *The Sea Hawk* (1940)

- C. Alfred Newman (1900-1970, born and lived in the US)
  - 1. *Gunga Din* (1939)
- D. Dmitri Tiomkin (1894-1979, Russian-emigrated to the US in 1929)
  - 1. *Lost Horizon* (1937)
- E. Sergei Prokofiev (1890-1933, Russian)
  - 1. *Lieutenant Kije* (1933)
  - 2. *Alexander Nevsky* (1938, reissued after Nazi invasion of the USSR in 1941)

#### IV. Supplemental Resources

##### Internet:

Max Steiner: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Max\\_Steiner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Max_Steiner)

Erich Korngold: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erich\\_Wolfgang\\_Korngold](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erich_Wolfgang_Korngold)

Alfred Newman: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred\\_Newman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_Newman)

Dmitri Tiomkin: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dimitri\\_Tiomkin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dimitri_Tiomkin)

Sergei Prokofiev: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sergei\\_Prokofiev](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sergei_Prokofiev)

##### Recordings:

King Kong: The Complete 1933 Film Score. Naxos Film Music Classic 8.557700.

Gone With the Wind: Max Steiner's Classic Film Score. RCA Red Seal 88697 77935 2.

Historical Romances. Marco Polo 8.223608 (Juarez, Gunga Din, Charge of the Light Brigade)

The Adventures of Robin Hood. Naxos Film Music Classics 8.573369.

The Sea Hawk: The Classic Film Scores of Erich Wolfgang Korngold. RCA Red Seal 88697 77932 2.

Lost Horizon: The Classic Film Scores of Dmitri Tiomkin. RCA Red Seal 88697 77944 2.