

# Composers of Movie Scores Chosen for Outstanding Popularity and/or Achievement

(Selected from Wikipedia links)

## 1. Addinsell:

- **Dangerous Moonlight** (also known as *Suicide Squadron* in the USA) is a 1941 British film, starring Anton Walbrook. It is best known for its score written by Richard Addinsell with orchestrations by Roy Douglas, which includes the *Warsaw Concerto*. Among the costumes, the gowns were designed by Cecil Beaton.

## 2. Antheil:

- ***Ballet mécanique*** (1923–24) is a Dadaist post-Cubist art film conceived, written, and co-directed by the artist Fernand Léger in collaboration with the filmmaker Dudley Murphy (with cinematographic input from Man Ray). It has a musical score by the American composer George Antheil. However, the film premiered in silent version on 24 September 1924 at the *Internationale Ausstellung neuer Theatertechnik* (International Exposition for New Theater Technique) in Vienna presented by Frederick Kiesler. It is considered one of the masterpieces of early experimental filmmaking.) (Antheil later partnered with Hedy Lamarr to invent patented technology now basis for the internet.)
- ***In a Lonely Place*** is a 1950 film noir directed by Nicholas Ray, and starring Humphrey Bogart and Gloria Grahame, produced for Bogart's Santana Productions. The script was adapted by Edmund North from the 1947 novel *In a Lonely Place* by Dorothy B. Hughes. Bogart stars in the film as Dixon Steele, a cynical screenwriter suspected of murder. Grahame co-stars as Laurel Gray, a neighbor who falls under his spell. Beyond its surface plot of confused identity and tormented lust, the film is a mordant comment on Hollywood mores and the pitfalls of celebrity and near-celebrity, like two other American films released that same year, Billy Wilder's *Sunset Boulevard* and Joseph Mankiewicz's *All About Eve*.
- ***Specter of the Rose*** is a 1946 ballet murder mystery film noir written and directed by Ben Hecht and starring Judith Anderson, Ivan Kirov, Viola Essen, Michael Chekhov, and Lionel Stander, with choreography by Tamara Geva, and music by George Antheil. A male ballet superstar (Kirov) is suspected of murdering his first wife (his former ballet partner) and now possibly threatening his new wife and ballet partner (Essen). Anderson plays an embittered ballet teacher, and Chekhov plays an impresario. Bogart's performance in this film is considered by many critics to be among his finest and the film's reputation itself has grown over time along with Ray's. The film is now considered a classic film noir, as evidenced by its inclusion on the *Time* magazine "All-Time 100 List." In 2007, *In a Lonely Place* was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

## 3. Bernstein:

- ***Thoroughly Modern Millie*** is a 1967 American musical film directed by George Roy Hill and starring Julie Andrews. The screenplay by Richard Morris focuses on a naive young woman who finds herself in the midst of a series of madcap adventures when she sets her sights on marrying her wealthy boss. The soundtrack interpolates new tunes by Jimmy Van Heusen and Sammy Cahn with standard songs from the 1910s and 1920s, including "Baby Face" and "Jazz Baby." For use of the latter, the producers had to acquire the rights from General Mills, which had used the melody with various lyrics to promote *Wheaties* for more than forty years. The film was nominated for seven Academy Awards and five Golden Globes. It was also the tenth highest grossing film of 1967. It won the academy award for original score by Elmer Bernstein. In 2000 it was adapted for a successful stage musical of the same name.

## 4. Copeland:

- ***Red Pony (The) (Suite)*** is a 1949 Western drama film based on one of John Steinbeck's short stories published in the 1930s under the title "The Red Pony." Steinbeck also wrote the screenplay for this film. A young boy, Tom Tiflin (Peter Miles), is given a small pony by his father (Shepperd Strudwick). Tom asks the stable helper, Billy Buck (Robert Mitchum), to help him raise and train it. During a rain storm the pony gets out of the stable and having been soaked becomes fevered. It develops strangles and requires a tracheotomy. Shortly after the procedure, the pony escapes from the farm. Tom follows the pony's hoof prints to a gully where it has died and is being eaten by

vultures. He blames Buck for not saving its life. Buck, feeling remorse, prepares to kill his own pregnant mare in order to give Tom a colt, believing the unborn may not have turned in the womb. Tom grows angry at Buck's willingness to sacrifice a horse and steals his knife. When they return to the stable the foal has been born naturally, both mother and colt survive.

## 5. Hageman:

- Stagecoach is a 1939 American Western film directed by John Ford, starring Claire Trevor and John Wayne in his breakthrough role. The screenplay, written by Dudley Nichols, is an adaptation of "The Stage to Lordsburg," a 1937 short story by Ernest Haycox. The film follows a group of strangers riding on a stagecoach through dangerous Apache territory. In 1995, this film was deemed "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" by the United States Library of Congress and selected for preservation in their National Film Registry. Richard Hageman shared an Academy Award for his score for Ford's 1939 western. Hageman was also an actor and accompanist in numerous musicals. His art songs for solo singers are standard recital repertoire.
  - Art Songs: "Do not Go, My love" (poem) by Rabindranath Tagore (1861 – 1941) translation by Anonymous --was a Bengali polymath. He became the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913. In translation his poetry was viewed as spiritual and mercurial. Tagore introduced new prose and verse forms into Bengali literature and freed it from models based on classical Sanskrit. He was highly influential in introducing the best of Indian culture to the West, and he is generally regarded as the outstanding creative artist of modern India.
  - "Miranda" by Hilaire Belloc was originally titled "Tarentella" (a legendary dance caused by the bite of a tarantula which resulted in death.) The initial verses of the poem are reminiscent and amusing. Hageman omitted the last death verse. [Listen for the line "the fleas that tease in the high Pyrenees."]

## 6. Korngold:

- **Sea Hawk (The)** is a 1940 American Warner Bros. feature film starring Errol Flynn as an English privateer who defends his nation's interests on the eve of the Spanish Armada. The film was the tenth collaboration between Flynn and director Michael Curtiz. The film's screenplay was written by Howard Koch and Seton I. Miller. The sparkling and rousing musical score is recognized as a high point in Erich Wolfgang Korngold's career.
- **Other compositions:**
  - **Die tote Stadt** (German for The Dead City) is an opera in three acts by Erich Wolfgang Korngold to a libretto by Paul Schott, a collective pseudonym for the composer and his father, Julius Korngold; it is based on the 1903 translation by Friedrich von Oppeln-Bronikowski of the 1892 novel *Bruges-la-Morte* by Georges Rodenbach. *Die tote Stadt* had its premiere on December 4, 1920, when Korngold was just 23 years old. But the work was banned by the Nazi régime because of Korngold's Jewish ancestry. [The following films used the aria "**Glück das mir verblieb**" in their soundtracks: **Aria** (1987, directed by Bruce Beresford), **Slaves of New York** (1989, directed by James Ivory) **The Big Lebowski** (1998, directed by Joel and Ethan Coen), and **A Late Quartet** (2012, directed by Yaron Zilberman)]
  - **Violin Concerto:** Overlooked as an overly sentimental concert piece, it has now become with revival of post romanticism a favorite of modern concert goers.

## 7. Newman:

- **Captain from Castile** is a historical adventure film released by 20th Century Fox in 1947. Directed by Henry King, the Technicolor film starred Tyrone Power, Jean Peters, and Cesar Romero. Shot on location in Michoacán, Mexico, the film includes scenes of the Parícutin volcano, which was then erupting. The film is an adaptation of the 1945 best-selling novel *Captain From Castile* by Samuel Shellabarger. The film's story covers the first half of the historical epic, describing the protagonist's persecution at the hands of the Spanish Inquisition and his escape to the New World to join Hernán Cortés in an expedition to conquer Mexico. Alfred Newman who scored this film, won nine Academy Awards, the most of any composer. He was nominated a total of 45 times, making him the third-most nominated person in Academy Awards history after Walt Disney and John Williams

## 8. Rozsa:

- **Thief of Bagdad (The)** is a 1940 British Technicolor fantasy film produced by Alexander Korda, and directed by Michael Powell, Ludwig Berger, and Tim Whelan, with contributions by Korda's brothers Vincent and Zoltán, and William Cameron Menzies. The film starred child actor Sabu, also Conrad Veidt, John Justin, and June Duprez. Although the film was produced by Alexander Korda's company, London Films in England, due to the outbreak of World War II, filming was completed in California. The film won the Academy Awards for Cinematography, Art Direction (Vincent Korda) and Special Effects (Lawrence W. Butler, Jack Whitney) and marks the first major use of bluescreening in film. It was also nominated for Original Music Score by Miklos Rózsa.
- **Spellbound** is a 1945 American psychological mystery thriller film directed by Alfred Hitchcock. It tells the story of the new head of a mental asylum who turns out not to be what he claims. The film stars Ingrid Bergman, Gregory Peck, Michael Chekhov and Leo G. Carroll. It is an adaptation by Angus MacPhail and Ben Hecht from the novel *The House of Dr. Edwardes* (1927) by Hilary Saint George Saunders and John Palmer (writing as "Francis Beeding"). The film features an Academy Award winning orchestral score by Miklós Rózsa notable for its pioneering use of the theremin. The score was edited to serve as a piece for concert performance, **Spellbound Concerto**.

## 9. Steiner:

- **Adventures of Don Juan**, known in the United Kingdom as *The New Adventures of Don Juan*, is a 1948 American adventure Technicolor romance film made by Warner Bros. It was directed by Vincent Sherman and produced by Jerry Wald from a screenplay by George Oppenheimer and Harry Kurnitz based on a story by Herbert Dalmas, with uncredited contributions by William Faulkner and Robert Florey. The film stars Errol Flynn and Viveca Lindfors with Robert Douglas, Alan Hale, Ann Rutherford and Robert Warwick. Also in the cast are Barbara Bates, Raymond Burr and Mary Stuart. The film was originally to be scored by Erich Wolfgang Korngold, however, production of the film was postponed until 1947, by which time Korngold had retired from scoring motion pictures. He was therefore replaced by Max Steiner.
- **Gone with the Wind** is a 1939 American epic historical romance film adapted from Margaret Mitchell's Pulitzer-winning 1936 novel. It was produced by David O. Selznick of Selznick International Pictures and directed by Victor Fleming. Set in the 19th-century American South, the film tells the story of Scarlett O'Hara, portrayed by Vivien Leigh, and her romantic pursuit of Ashley Wilkes (Leslie Howard) who is married to his cousin, Melanie Hamilton (Olivia de Havilland), and her marriage to Rhett Butler (Clark Gable). Set against the backdrop of the American Civil War and Reconstruction era, the story is told from the perspective of white Southerners. To compose the score, Selznick chose Max Steiner, with whom he had worked at RKO Pictures in the early 1930s. Warner Bros.—who had contracted Steiner in 1936—agreed to lend him to Selznick. Steiner spent twelve weeks working on the score, the longest period that he had ever spent writing one, and at two hours and thirty-six minutes long it was also the longest that he had ever written. The facsimile score reproductions give insight to Steiner's stress and humor.

## 10. Tiomkin:

- **Giant** is a 1956 American drama film, directed by George Stevens from a screenplay adapted by Fred Guiol and Ivan Moffat from the novel by Edna Ferber. The novel is a roman à clé, a fictional account based on information gained by the author from visiting the King Ranch in Kingsville, Texas. The film stars Elizabeth Taylor, Rock Hudson and James Dean and features Carroll Baker, Jane Withers, Chill Wills, Mercedes McCambridge, Dennis Hopper, Sal Mineo, Rod Taylor, Elsa Cardenas and Earl Holliman. *Giant* was the last of James Dean's three films, and earned him his second and last Academy Award nomination – he was killed in a car accident before the film was released. Plot--Jordan "Bick" Benedict (Rock Hudson), head of a wealthy Texas ranching family, travels to Maryland to buy a horse he is planning to put out to stud. There he meets and courts socialite Leslie Lynnton (Elizabeth Taylor), who ends a budding relationship with Sir David Karfrey (Rod Taylor) and marries Bick. They return to Texas to start their life together on the family ranch, Reata, where Bick's sister Luz Benedict (Mercedes McCambridge) runs the household. Luz resents Leslie's presence and attempts to intimidate her. Jett Rink (James Dean) works for Luz and hopes to find his fortune by leaving Texas; he is also secretly in love with Leslie --In 2005, the film was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

- **High and the Mighty (The)** is a 1954 American “disaster” film directed by William A. Wellman and written by Ernest K. Gann who also wrote the novel on which his screenplay was based. The film’s cast was headlined by John Wayne, who was also the project’s co-producer. Composer Dimitri Tiomkin won an Academy Award for his original score while his title song for the film also was nominated for an Oscar (but the title song did not actually appear in release prints, nor, indeed, in the recent restoration, of the film). The film received mostly positive reviews and grossed \$8.5 million in its theatrical release. The supporting cast includes Claire Trevor, Laraine Day, Robert Stack, Jan Sterling, Phil Harris and Robert Newton.
- **High Noon** is a 1952 American Western film directed by Fred Zinnemann and starring Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly. In nearly real time, the film tells the story of a town marshal forced to face a gang of killers by himself. The screenplay was written by Carl Foreman. The film won four Academy Awards (Actor, Editing, Music-Score, Music-Song) and four Golden Globe Awards (Actor, Supporting Actress, Score, Cinematography-Black and White). In 1989, High Noon was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant,” entering the registry during the NFR’s first year of existence. The film is #27 on the American Film Institute’s 2007 list of great films.

## 11. Waxman:

- **Humoresque** is a 1946 Warner Bros. feature film starring Joan Crawford and John Garfield in an older woman/younger man tale about a violinist and his patroness. The screenplay by Clifford Odets and Zachary Gold was based upon a novel by Fannie Hurst. Humoresque was directed by Jean Negulesco and produced by Jerry Wald.
- **Carmen Fantasie** is one of the most popular of all virtuoso violin compositions for modern violinists. It was created for the movie **Humoresque** by Waxman for young Isaac Stern (17), who served as technical advisor to John Garfield and recorded the sound track.
- **Waxman’s greatest Hits**--composite of his numerous film scores such as **The Bride of Frankenstein** (1935), **Rebecca** (1940), and **Rear Window** (1954).

## 12. Victor Young:

- **Scaramouche** is a 1952 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Technicolor romantic adventure film based on the 1921 novel Scaramouche by Rafael Sabatini as well as the 1923 film version starring Ramón Novarro. The film stars Stewart Granger, Eleanor Parker, Janet Leigh, and Mel Ferrer. It was directed by George Sidney and produced by Carey Wilson from a screenplay by Ronald Millar and George Froeschel. The original music score was composed by Victor Young and the cinematography by Charles Rosher.
- **Samson and Delilah** is a 1949 American romantic religious epic film produced and directed by Cecil B. DeMille and released by Paramount Pictures. It depicts the biblical story of Samson, a strongman whose secret lies in his uncut hair, and his love for Delilah, the woman who seduces him, discovers his secret and then betrays him to the Philistines. It stars Hedy Lamarr and Victor Mature in the title roles, George Sanders as the Saran, Angela Lansbury as Semadar, and Henry Wilcoxon as Ahtur. Pre-production on the film began as early as 1935, but principal photography officially commenced in 1948. The screenplay, written by Jesse L. Lasky, Jr. and Fredric M. Frank, is based on the biblical Book of Judges and adapted from original film treatments by Harold Lamb and Vladimir Jabotinsky. Praised upon release for its Technicolor cinematography, lead performances, costumes, sets, and innovative special effects, the film was a box-office success. It was the highest-grossing film of 1950. Of its five Academy Award nominations, the film won two for Best Art Direction and Best Costume Design. The music score was by Victor Young.