



Marin Symphony to play the music of the movies

Jane Lott

Article Launched: 02/20/2008 12:40:26 PM PST

Since the coming of age of homo sapiens, music and drama have walked hand in hand. Celtic bards, for example, sang the old English ballad of Beowulf. Church holidays were marked by oratorios. Later,



Marin Symphony music director Alasdair Neale will conduct a program called Screen Gems: The Marriage of Music and Movies, a program lovers of both arts will enjoy. (Provided by James Hall)

operas such as Mozart's "Magic Flute" and Wagner's "Ring" cycle entertained the crowds. So it seemed inevitable that when stories jumped

from stage to screen, music would follow. More than inevitable, in fact, it was essential because music enhances not only drama but emotion.

Now, after more than 100 years of "talking pictures," it has become impossible to separate some movies from their musical scores, as the upcoming Marin Symphony concert on Feb. 24 and 26 will show. Music director Alasdair Neale will conduct a program called "Screen Gems: The Marriage of Music and Movies," a program lovers of both arts will enjoy.

The program couldn't begin any more appropriately than with "Sunrise" from Stanley Kubrick's masterpiece "2001: A Space Odyssey." Since its release in 1968, the film has been inextricably linked to Richard Strauss' 1896 tone poem, "Thus Spake Zarathustra." In fact, the music brings an immediate association to anyone hearing it. Everyone in the audience will no doubt be visualizing the same scene - the sun rising on the dawn of man - just as everyone will be visualizing Mickey Mouse later on in the program.

Mickey shows up in "Fantasia," a Walt Disney cartoon from 1940. Paul Dukas' music, called "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," is one of at least eight classical music pieces used in this enduring movie. It has come to be best associated with the film perhaps because its marching rhythm so perfectly coordinates with the recalcitrant brooms that Mickey tries to organize.

Like the Strauss and Dukas, many of the pieces on the program might bring to mind the scenes they underscore. But at least two of them need no screenplay association to convey the emotion they were chosen to highlight.

Samuel Barber's "Adagio for Strings" is one of the most hauntingly poignant pieces ever imagined.

Advertisement

TARGET WEB COUPON

EXPIRES 3/8/08

FREE Twenty 4x6" basic prints



9856-0113-2647-5849-0376-5806-89

Offer available at Target One-hour Photo Labs. Go to Target.com/photo for the location nearest you. One-hour service limited to machine capacity. Limit one item or offer per coupon. Offer not available for prints made on the Kodak Picture Kiosk. Void if copied, transferred, purchased, sold or prohibited by law. No cash value. Maximum retail value \$4.40 for combined free offer.

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™



To use this music to contrasting the silent horrors on screen slams more impact into director Oliver Stone's intentions than all the bombs and screams and explosions ever could.

Equally meaningful is "The Theme from Schindler's List" by John Williams. Even without knowing the 1993 Steve Spielberg film about the Holocaust, the violin solo will break your heart.

Williams' piece is the only one on the program written especially for a film. That makes one wonder how directors envision the music for their movies and what the determining factors are when choosing between new and existing music. Those questions and others can be asked at Neale's pre-concert conversation at 6:30 p.m. each night. This time Neale will be joined by the film music production team of Terri and Marco d'Ambrosio.

Marco d'Ambrosio, a composer, producer and trumpet player, has written the scores for several award-winning films, including "The Rape of Europa," which has been nominated for the 2008 Writer's Guild of America "Best Documentary" award. Terri d'Ambrosio's credits include the Emmy-award-winning "Blink," among others.

With contributions from the d'Ambrosios, Neale and the symphony, "Screen Gems" will provide insight into the intimate relationship between music and the movies.

IF YOU GO

What: "Screen Gems: The Marriage of Music and Movies"

Who: Marin Symphony Orchestra

When: 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24 and 26, with pre-concert conversations at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Marin Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael

Tickets: \$27 to \$65

Information: 499-6800, www.marinsymphony.org, www.ticketmaster.com

Advertisement

TARGET WEB COUPON

EXPIRES 3/8/08

FREE Twenty 4x6" basic prints



9856-0113-2647-5849-0376-5806-89

Offer available at Target One-hour Photo Labs. Go to Target.com/photo for the location nearest you. One-hour service limited to machine capacity. Limit one item or offer per coupon. Offer not available for prints made on the Kodak Picture Kiosk. Void if copied, transferred, purchased, sold or prohibited by law. No cash value. Maximum retail value \$4.40 for combined free offer.

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™