Film Music
1950s-1960s
• 1940s: Transition from large orchestras to smaller ensembles
• 1957: Musicians strike – smaller music departments afterwards

1950s Film Music Style:
• Popular Music
• Jazz
• Symphonic scores mostly gone until John Williams in 1970s.
Jazz in Film

• Used since the start of sound in film
  *(The Jazz Singer)*

• Typically used as source music (Casablanca)

• Used in Film Noir (Laura)

• Newer jazz styles (like bebop) used to portray moods of sexual intensity and violence
A Streetcar Named Desire (1951)

• Dir. Elia Kazan
• Music by Alex North
• Best Music Oscar
• Jazz and blues score
• Line between underscore and source music blurred

Alex North (1911-1991)

- Julliard in NYC (top school for performing musicians)
- Studied in Moscow as well in 1930s
- 15 Academy Award nominations
High Noon (1952)

• Music by Dimitri Tiomkin
• Film set in real time
• Western song “Do Not Forsake Me”

• Opening: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8DPEyBWhbY
• Final moments before high noon: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MooNISe8aM
Dimitri Tiomkin (1894-1979)

- Russian, St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music
- Pianist at Russian silent films
- Pioneers style associated with Westerns
- Monothematic style
- 4 Oscars
Blackboard Jungle (1955)

• First of the Rock ‘n’ Roll films
• Rock = Juvenile delinquency

• Ex: Opening: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnN_zSApOiw
• Bill Haley’s “Rock Around the Clock”
Rebel Without a Cause (1955)

- Dir. Nicholas Ray
- Music by Leonard Rosenman (1924-2008)
- Starring James Dean

- Jazzy and dissonant music

Ex: “Chickie Run” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7hZ9jKrwvo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7hZ9jKrwvo)
Forbidden Planet (1956)

• Dir. Fred M. Wilcox
• Music: Louis and Bebe Barron
• First all-electronic score (big step in film music)

• Opening: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voyDAXZl6uo
**Vertigo (1958)**

- Dir. Alfred Hitchcock
- Music Bernard Herrmann

- **Opening:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CZfSc6nJ8U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CZfSc6nJ8U)
- 6 note pattern, offset with ominous brass chords
- Tension

- **Madeleine jumps:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8cWjLMuJgo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8cWjLMuJgo)
- Disturbing sounds
Into the 1960s...

• Even more of a challenge from TV
• Hollywood studios bought by big corporations

• Canon of classic films
• Similar to classical music
• Reaction of directors/composers

• New Wave Cinema (France)
• “Auteur” Theory: Director in charge of all aspects of filmmaking
Psycho (1960)

- Hitchcock/Herrmann
- Score reflects stark B&W cinematography
- Only strings; harsh, percussive, not in a typical romantic or lyrical style

- Opening:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tek8QmKRODw
- Shower Scene:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0WtDmbr9xyY
Importance of theme songs

- Best Song Oscar good for marketing material

James Bond
Pink Panther

TV: Mission: Impossible
Peter Gunn theme:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oisMt8iL9UE
The Pink Panther (1964)

- Dir. Blake Edwards
- Music Henry Mancini (1924-1994)
- Oscar nomination for this film
- Glen Miller’s Big Band

- Opening: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0Yl9c3jc90
The Graduate (1967)

- Dir. Mike Nichols
- Songs by Simon and Garfunkel
- “Sounds of Silence,” “Mrs. Robinson,” + 3 more

- Late 60s, shift towards more pop, away from traditional scores

- Ex: Opening: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjtoi6Z4lAg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjtoi6Z4lAg)
Ennio Morricone (b. 1928)

• Team with Dir. Sergio Leone
• “Spaghetti” Westerns

• 400+ scores total

  • Opening: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kccafO4O6Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kccafO4O6Q)

• Ex: *Once Upon a Time in the West* (1968)
  • The Duel [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3c9ngwHghg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3c9ngwHghg)
Planet of the Apes (1968)

- Dir. Franklin Schaffer
- Music Jerry Goldsmith

- Atonal, unusual instruments (tuned mixing bowl)
- Avant-garde style
- Consistent distorted mood

Ex: The Hunt https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DruCG3LJiiU
Jerry Goldsmith (1929-2004)

- Born in LA
- Many styles: Avant-garde, popular and full symphonic styles
- USC, Rozsa
2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)

• Dir. Stanley Kubrick
• Adapted score
• Alex North composed a score, but not used

Ex: opening (Richard Strauss’ Also Sprach Zarathustra, 1896) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-QFj59PON4

Ex: Dawn of Man (György Ligeti’s Requium, 1965) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypEaGQb6dJk

Ex: Alex North Opening https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekDscvvYOFg