

80 years of Academy Awards

# Best Original Score

— THE —  
OSCAR

# Outline

- Brief History
  - Oscars
  - Best Original Score
- Research Questions
- Datasets
- Results
- Future Directions

# Movie Lounge

The background of the slide features a stylized, artistic representation of a movie set. At the top, a clapperboard is partially visible with diagonal black and white stripes. Below it, the title 'Movie Lounge' is written in a large, white, serif font. The lower half of the image is dominated by a complex, overlapping arrangement of silver film reels and strips of film, creating a sense of motion and cinematic history. The overall color palette is dark, with highlights on the metallic surfaces of the film equipment.

# Academy Awards

- Hosted by Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS)
  - Voted by members
  - Publically announce the nominees in Jan
- Established in 1928 to recognize excellence in cinematic achievement
  - First award presentation was in 1929
- The most recent award was: 2016 (88<sup>th</sup>)
  - Total of 24 categories

# Best Original Score

- First awarded in 1934
  - Film score
- Best Score – Adaptation or Treatment
  - The award was awarded to two composers
  - 1964:
    - Mary Poppins – Richard M. Shermann
    - My Fair Lady – Andre Previn
  - It was discontinued (1980s)
- In the past decade:
  - 5 nominees per year with 1 winner
  - Mixture of different styles (orchestral, jazz, ethnic, pop, rock, electronic)

# Questions

- What kind of films are winning this award?
  - Composers
  - Directors
  - Genres
- Multidisciplinary art form – visual, music/sound, literary
  - Other nominations
    - Best Adapted Screenplay
    - Best Cinematography
    - Best Visual Effects
    - Best Picture

# Datasets

- Complete List of Oscar Nominees and Winners 1928 - 2010 (<https://www.aggdata.com/awards/oscar>)
- Entered best original score nominees and winners from 2011 - 2016
- Imdb data (movie ID) - python
  - User rating
  - Director
  - Primary Lang
  - Runtime
  - Genre (up to four)
  - Budget
- Combined using movie title

# Data Cleaning and Null Values

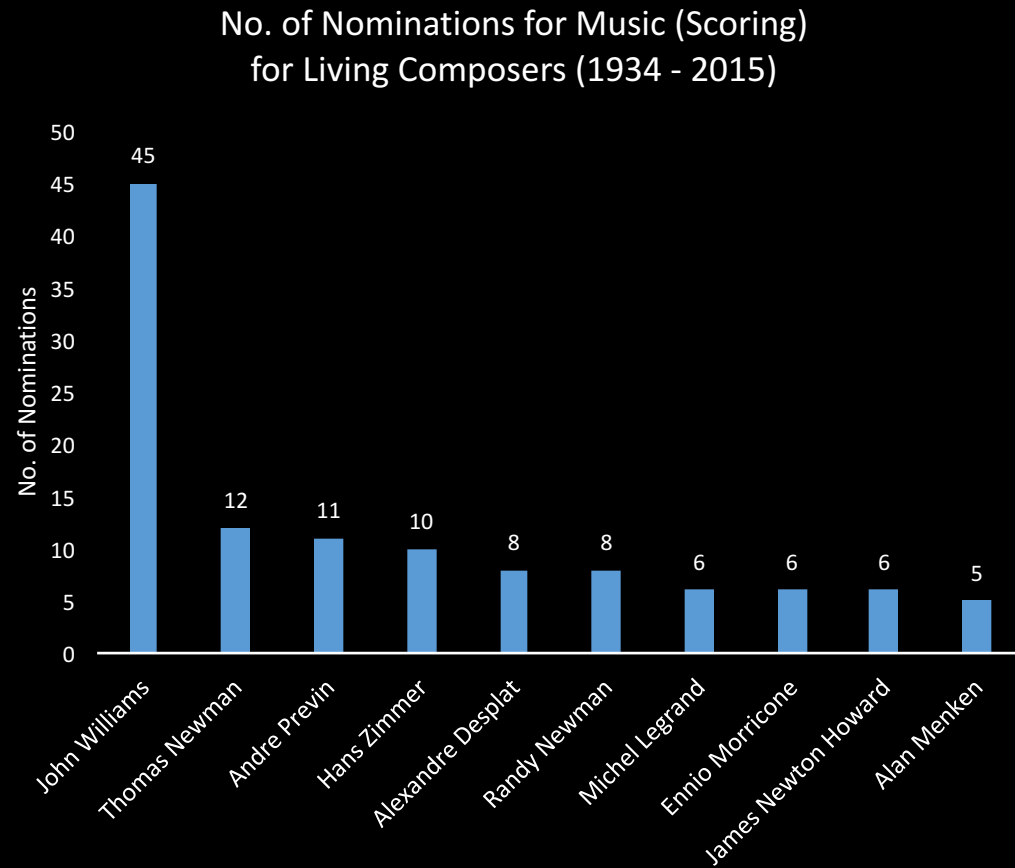
- MovieID:
  - Similar names
    - Remake
    - Same names
      - E.g., Beauty and the Beast (1991, 2017) – presents NA
  - Movie ID
- Budget
  - A lot of films just don't have that data – left it blank
- Genres

# Demographics

	Nominated	Winning
Number of films (N = 753)	627	126
Runtime	115 Minutes	128 Minutes
IMDB User Rating	7.1	7.5
Total No. of Oscars Nomination	3	5



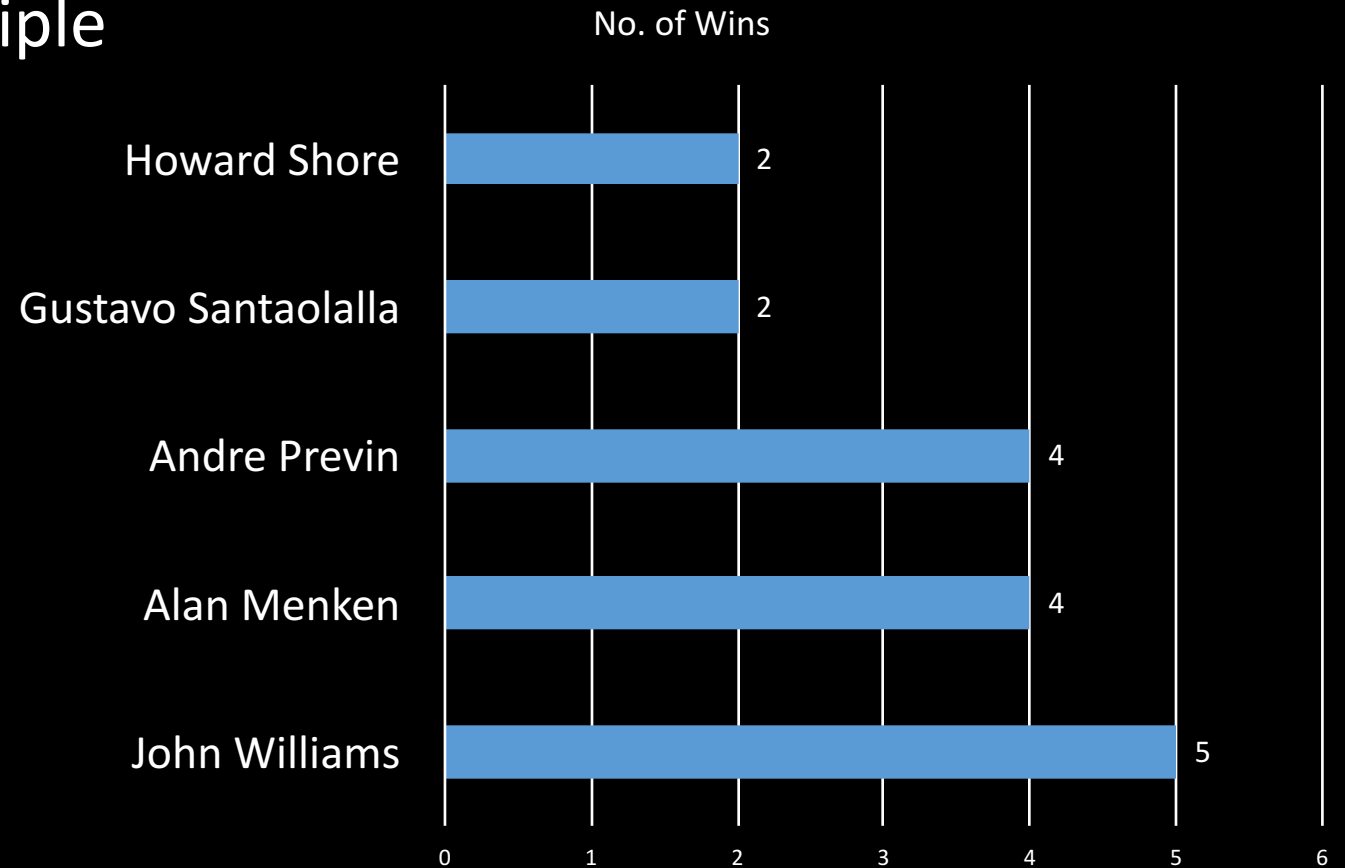
# Composers (Living)



Composers	No.	Wins	%
John Williams	45	5	11.1%
Thomas Newman	12	0	0%
Andre Previn	11	4	36%
Hans Zimmer	10	1	10%
Alexandre Desplat	8	1	13%
Randy Newman	8	0	0%
Michel Legrand	6	2	33%
Ennio Morricone	6	1	17%
James Newton Howard	6	0	0%
Alan Menken	5	4	80%

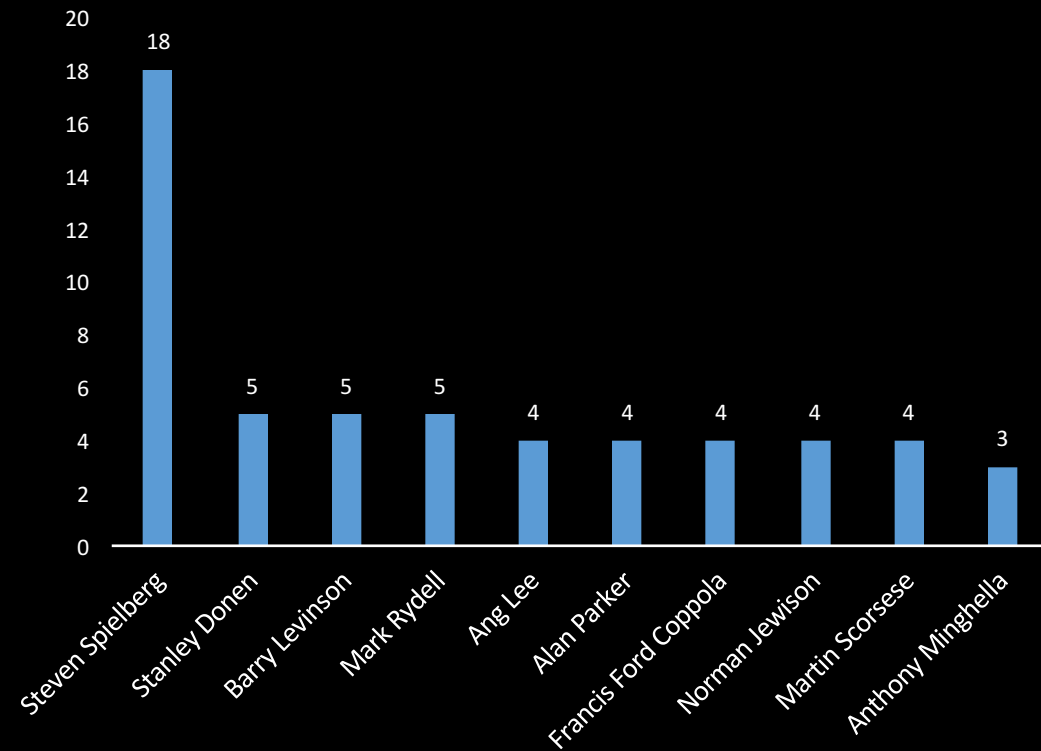
# Living Composers with Multiple Awards

- 22 composers have won multiple Awards (average 1.5)
  - Alfred Newman (9)
  - John Williams (5)
  - Alan Menken (4)
  - Andre Previn (4)
  - John Berry (4)



# Directors (Living)

No. of Nominations for Living Directors  
(1934 - 2015)



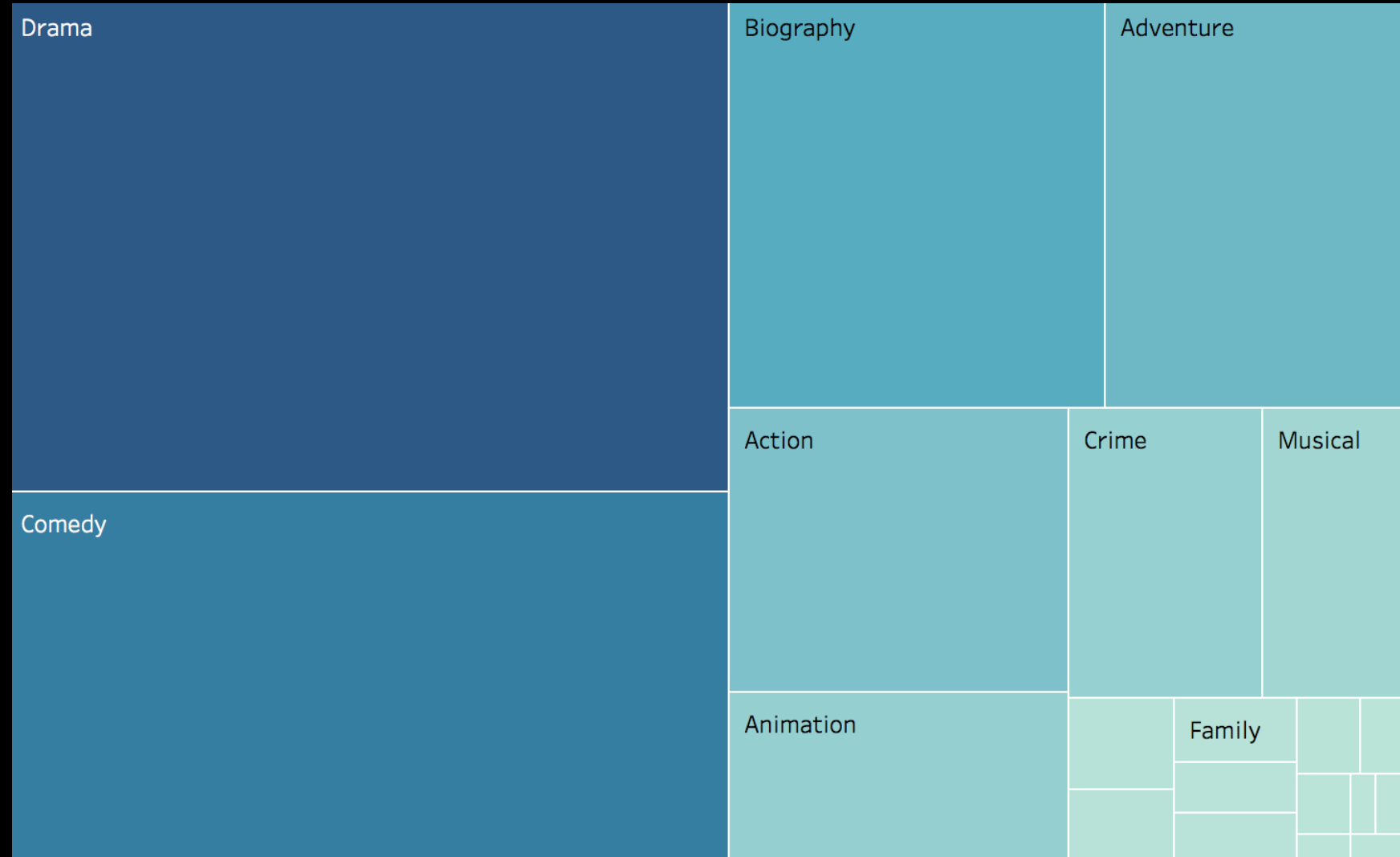
The director-composer pair Steven Spielberg and John Williams have won the most nominations in the history thus far (13), and won 3 awards:

1. Schindler's List (1993)
2. E.T. (1982)
3. Jaws (1975)

Director	No.	Wins	%
Steven Spielberg	18	3	17%
Stanley Donen	5	2	40%
Barry Levinson	5	0	0%
Mark Rydell	5	0	0%
Ang Lee	4	3	75%
Alan Parker	4	2	50%
Francis Ford Coppola	4	1	25%
Norman Jewison	4	1	25%
Martin Scorsese	4	0	0%
Anthony Minghella	3	1	33%

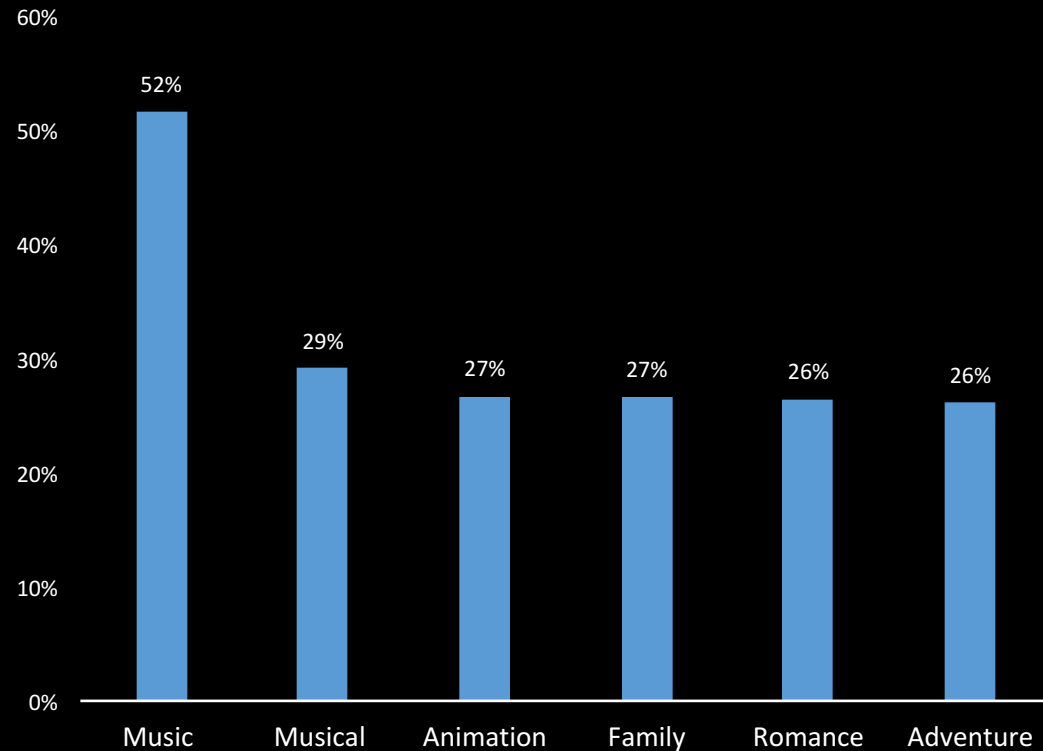
# Primary Genre (Nominations)

- Drama (30%)
- Comedy (22%)
- Biography (13%)
- Adventure (10%)
- Action (8%)



# All Genres

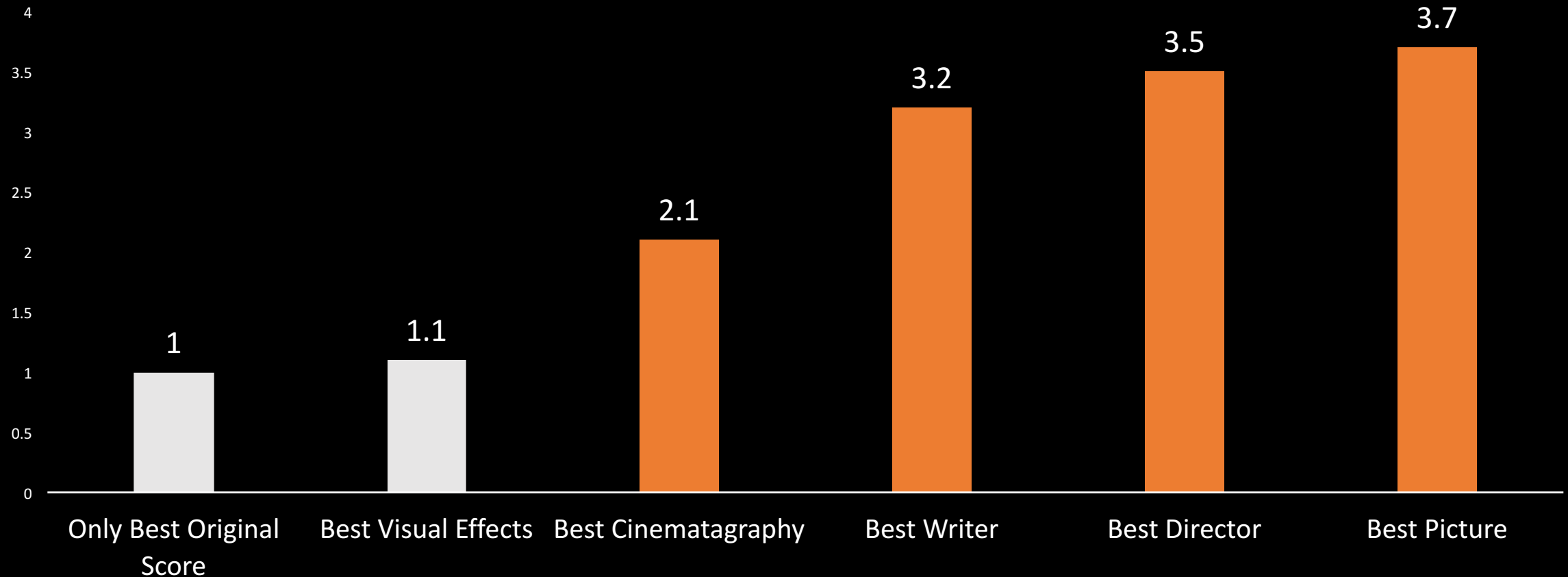
Top genres with the highest rates of winning the award  
(1934 - 2015)



Genre	No. of Nomination	No.of Winners	%
Music	33	17	52%
Musical	141	41	29%
Animation	30	8	27%
Family	64	17	27%
Romance	238	63	26%
Adventure	115	30	26%

# Other Awards (up to 2010)

## Probability Increase in Winning Best Original Score



# Future Direction

- What kind of music are winning the awards:
  - Pop, jazz, orchestral, ambient music or electronic
  - Has film music evolved?
- Film Music is an essential and integrated part of the film
  - It shouldn't be "unnoticeable"
  - Memorable (Star Wars, Indiana Jones, The Social Network)
  - Part of the art form (interrelatedness with cinematography, writer, directors, and best pictures)



# Thank you!

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- Any Questions?