

# The Early 1970s

Expanding Popular Music  
Conspiracy Movies

# 1970s

- Turbulence reaches crisis moments
- Conspiracy films: dark, pessimistic
- Music
  - Modern style reaches a peak
  - Popular music continues to expand
  - Amount of scoring initially scarce, but gradually fuller scores begin to reappear
  - Revival of classic score headed by Jerry Goldsmith and John Williams



## Godfather 1972

- Director: F. Coppola; AFI #2
- Two sequels
  - *Godfather II* (1974) AFI #32
  - *Godfather III* (1990)
- Composers: Rota and C. Coppola
  - Mixes Italian and American popular music
  - Supports theme: family business
  - Music is No. 5 on AFI Greatest Scores



## Shaft, 1971

- Best of Blaxploitation movement
  - Aimed at African-Americans
  - Replaced old stereotypes with new stereotypes
- Composer: Issac Hayes
  - First African American to be nominated for Best Score
  - First African-American to win Best Song
  - Only third African-American to win an Oscar



## New German Cinema

- Krautrock: progressive German rock using synthesizer; created ambient rock
- *Aguirre, Wrath of God* 1972
  - New German Cinema: Werner Herzog
  - Tale of search down Amazon for gold
  - Horrific conditions
  - Popol Vuh created music; hypnotic in sound
  - Opening Scene: Viewer Guide 20.3

## Nashville, 1975

- Director: Robert Altman
- Oscar for Best Song: Keith Carradine "I'm Easy"
- Lots of Nashville music: Country and Gospel
- 24 main characters; stories intertwine at end
- Climactic scene: 3 songs at rally (VG 22.2)
  - "One I Love You" verses with refrain/chorus
  - "My Idaho Home" verses / refrain overlap
  - "It Don't Bother Me" simple chorus repetition

## Rocky, 1976

- Best Picture Winner
  - Upset winner over *Taxi Driver*
  - Turn against negative moods from the 70s.
- Bill Conti composes sparse score
  - Memorable principal theme incorporates rock elements
  - Contrast in theme for early and late training
  - Music is a model for future sports films.

## Taxi Driver, 1976

- Director: Martin Scorsese
- Composer: Bernard Herrmann
  - Combines jazz and modern styles
  - Extensive sax solo
- Died day after finishing score: Christmas Eve
- Travis: disturbed Vietnam War vet

## Chinatown 1974

- Neo-film noir
- Roman Polanski director
- Story about bringing water to LA
  - Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway
  - Dark plot and ending
- Music by Jerry Goldsmith
  - Mixes modern with 30s jazz
  - AFI #9 Greatest Score
- Revelation scene: Viewer Guide 19.1
  - Discovery in backyard
  - Anger at his lover
  - Confrontation - no music
  - Resolution - view of Katherine

