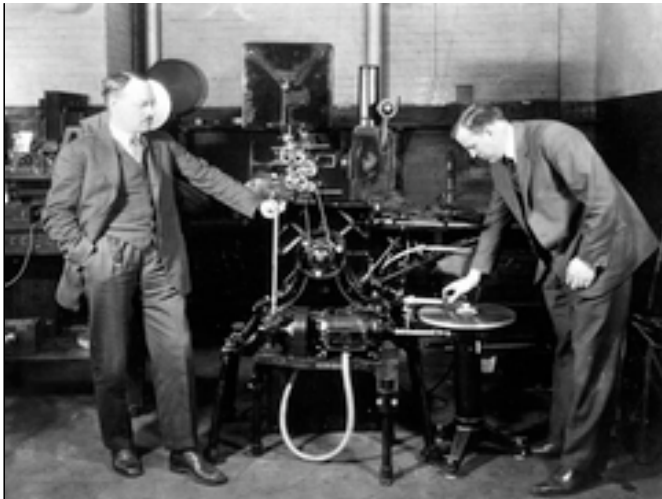


Breaking the Sound Barrier

Chapter 7

Synchronized Sound

- Recorded sound added to silent films
 - Both music and sound effects
 - Enhanced silent films 1926-28, but led to end of the era
- Vitaphone
 - First practical system to synchronize sound
 - Developed by Sam Warner (Warner Bros.)
 - Reel of film and side of record played simultaneously
 - Best suited for general music and sound effects



Don Juan Shorts

- Vitaphone debuted in 1926 with *Don Juan* and several shorts
- The shorts preceded the film
 - Opens with a talk by Will Hayes
 - The NY Philharmonic plays a Wagner overture
 - A variety of musical acts follow, mostly classical



Don Juan

- Dramatic swashbuckler starring John Barrymore
- Story includes romance, humor, and action
- Intro scene: VG 7.1
- Music
 - Composed by William Axt
 - Music is performed by New York Philharmonic
 - Wall-to-wall music
 - Follows emotions of story
 - Employs leitmotifs



The Jazz Singer 1927


- » Most of the film is “silent” with synchronized music, as in *Don Juan*
 - » Uses adaptations and arrangements
 - » Little newly composed music
- » Four segments have “live” music
 - » Primarily used so Al Jolson could perform popular songs
 - » Contains two moments of live dialogue



Jazz Singer Music

- » Jewish music
 - » Scoring in Cantor's house
 - » Arrangements of Jewish tunes
 - » Adaptations
 - » Tchaikovsky, *Romeo and Juliet*
 - » Bruch *Kol Nidre* (solo cello)
 - » Source music: live *Kol Nidre*
- » American
 - » Outside work with popular music both in scoring and as live source music
 - » Popular songs by a variety of composers

Movietone



- Developed by Fox Studios
- Placed sound on film
- Coordination was better
- First major film: *Sunrise*
 - Director: Murnau
 - Composer: Riesenfeld
 - Music used for moods
 - Opening scene: Viewer Guide 7.2


Hallelujah (1929)

- » First Hollywood studio film with all black cast
- » Director King Vidor pushed project through by donating his salary
- » Music added in post-production
- » Serious musical
 - Man kills his brother after gambling loss
 - Becomes a powerful preacher
 - Fights new temptations
- » Some authentic views of life: nightclub
 - Small combo provides music
 - Nina Mae McKinney sings "Swanee Devil"
 - » Verse/chorus/repeat chorus
 - » Chorus: aaba (b is about "waiters")




Blackmail 1928

- » Director: Hitchcock
- » Began as a silent film; sound added mid-production
- » Silent portions with underscoring; sound portions with no music or live source music
- » Song: "Miss Up-to-Date"
 - » Verse - Chorus
 - » Chorus: aaba



Charlie Chaplin



- 1st million dollar actor
- Trademarks still highly recognizable
- Was actor, director, producer... composer
- *City Lights* (1931)
 - Created after silent film era had ended
 - Brilliant mixture of comedy and sentimentality
 - Opening scenes described in VG 7.3