

## Modern Music in Hollywood

*The Early 1940s*

## Modern Musical Styles

- Neo-Romanticism
  - Traditional chords retained, but progressions changed
  - Retains lush orchestra and emotional range
  - Debussy, Hindemith, Sibelius
- Neo-Classicism
  - Economical in orchestration
  - Wide melodic leaps; more dissonance
  - Stravinsky; Copland
- Expressionism
  - Often harsh, nightmare sounds
  - Initially used with a narrative: song, ballet, opera
  - Richard Strauss, Schoenberg, Berg



## Song of Bernadette 1943

- Based on historic person
  - Bernadette had visions
  - Most doubted her
  - Church verified miracles; sainthood
- Music
  - Alfred Newman - Oscar Win
  - Neo-Romantic style; lush sound for orchestra
  - Leitmotifs for Bernadette and Lady
  - Unusual harmonies; wide melody



## Aaron Copland

- America's foremost concert composer
- Neo-Classic style: American Nationalism
  - Broad melodies with wide intervals
  - Syncopation, mild dissonances, colorful
- Composed four film scores
  - *Of Mice and Men* 1939 (Steinbeck)
  - *Our Town* 1940 (Thornton Wilder)
  - *Red Pony* 1949 (Steinbeck)
  - *The Heiress* 1949 - Oscar for Best Score

## Citizen Kane

- AFI: No. 1 Film
- Creative force: Orson Welles
  - Diverse talents
  - *War of the Worlds* established reputation
- *Citizen Kane* controversy
  - Based on life of William Randolph Hearst
  - Hearst was unhappy, especially with the depiction of his mistress—Marion Davies



## Visual Innovations

- Strong contrast of light and dark
- Deep space
- Unusual points of view
- Fascinating use of reflected images
- Montage technique



## Creative Plot Structure

Story told in flashbacks from six perspectives

1. Public view of Kane (newsreel)
2. Thatcher
3. Bernstein
4. Leland
5. Susan
6. Raymond (the butler)



## Music

- Bernard Herrmann composer
- Not wall-to-wall scoring
  - Source music prominent
  - Scoring: montages and transitions
- Musical styles include expressionism
- Instrumentation: often small



## Leitmotifs in *Citizen Kane*

Power



Rosebud

