

# Global Perspectives

Critic's Choices

## *The Mission, 1986*

- Winner of Palm d'or (Cannes Festival)
- Set in South America; controversial subject
  - Church sacrifices lives of Indians for political gain
  - Seen as criticism of America in South America



## Around the World in the 80s

- Best Picture Winners
  - India: *Gandhi* 1982
  - Africa: *Out of Africa* 1985
  - China: *The Last Emperor* 1987
- *Out of Africa*
  - Based on life of Danish author Karen Blixen
  - Beautiful Oscar winning score by John Barry, with help from Mozart
  - Flying over Africa: VG 23.2

## *The Mission, Music*

- Composer: Ennio Morricone
  - Like Spaghetti Western films, mixture of styles: popular, ethnic, symphonic, and avant-garde
  - Layered effect of source music and underscoring
- Most famous tune: Gabriel's theme on oboe
- Ethnic instrument: Andean flute



## Dances with Wolves, 1990



- Director/lead actor: Kevin Costner
- Best Picture winner
  - Shows realism of Civil War surgery at the beginning
  - Portrayal of Indians as civilized, Americans as savages
- Best Score Oscar: John Barry
  - Extended melody is the main theme
  - Opening scene with trumpet to suggest military

## The Last of the Mohicans, 1992



- Based on event in the French/Indian War (1757)
- Story derived from James Fenimore Cooper novel
- Hawkeye (Long Rifle) travels with his two Mohican companions—the last of their tribe
- Music by Trevor Jones
- Climax: Viewer Guide 25.1
  - Repeating 8 mm. bass line (recalls Baroque form)
  - Folk fiddle tune added; repeats—ending is inevitable
  - Interrupted by leitmotif for the natural beauty of America

## Braveheart, 1995

- Directed by Mel Gibson; Best Picture
- Based on life/legends of William Wallace
- James Horner composer
  - Leitmotifs include: Outlaw, Love, and Braveheart
  - Includes ethnic instruments, such as the bagpipe

