

Film Music

- Silent films gained popularity in the 1910's and 1920's
 - Silent Film music had strong ties to Romantic Orchestral Music
 - Live musicians were hired by theater companies to play music while films were projected.
 - Piano players and organists would often improvise based on what was happening on the screen using themes they borrowed from symphonies and operas that they had played before.
- 1920 the soundtrack was created right on the film strip
 - composers would now write music specifically to sync up with film
 - leitmotifs were used to represent characters or their actions
 - an early example of this in *King Kong* in 1933 and *Gone With the Wind*

Prokofiev wrote a soundtrack to "Alexander Nevsky," a Russian Folk Hero from the 13th century. A propaganda film produced during World War II. The film calls for Nevsky to help defeat the invading Germans. The Russians lure them onto Lake Chudskoe and when the Germans attempt to flee, they crash through the ice and die.