AN EVALUATION OF MOTION PICTURE FILMS
FOR USE IN MUSIC EDUCATION

THESIS

Presented to the Graduate Council of the North Texas State Teachers College in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of

MASTER OF MUSIC

By

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Alvin, Texas

June, 1949
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of the Thesis Problem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significance of the Subject</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method of Investigation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method of Presentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Need for Evaluation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. THE DETERMINING FACTORS IN EVALUATION</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musical Interest and Value</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Interest and Value</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authenticity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filming Technique and Sound Reproduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adaptability to Classroom use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audience Appeal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explanation of Ratings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. MOTION PICTURE FILM EVALUATIONS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist Films</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composer Films</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Education Films</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Music Education Interest Films</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrumental Education Films</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musical Acoustic Films</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musical Composition Films</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera Films</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. CONCLUSIONS</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIBLIOGRAPHY</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Statement of the Thesis Problem

The purpose of this thesis is to present an evaluated list of motion picture films which are related to the field of music and the teaching of music in order that both teacher and student of music may become familiar with the films which are available for use in music education and with the relative merit of each film.

Significance of the Subject

The use of the motion picture film as a supplementary teaching device has been recently recognized in the teaching profession as a valuable aid to the educator.\(^1\) This recognition is not only a result of years of experimentation but also a result of observation of the success achieved with motion picture films in the training of the armed forces.\(^2\)

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\(^1\) A.J.F. Cross, "Visual Aids," School Films, Vol. I (Winter 1948), p. 12: "The motion picture was a few years ago thought of only as a hobby or harmless diversion in which a few teachers were permitted to indulge. Now motion pictures, along with other visual aids have become a recognized and thoroughly approved instructional technique."

\(^2\) Andrew H. Gibbs, "The Office of Education," The Phi Delta Kappan, Vol. XXX, No. 2 (Oct., 1948), p. 45: "The Army has stated that the use of training films speeds up training as much as 40 per cent; the Navy reports that students learn 35 per cent faster and that facts are remembered up to 55 per cent longer."
Many branches of our educational system have made great advances in this new teaching field. Especially is this true in the field of science education. Other fields have also been able to develop strong and precise teaching programs with the use of motion picture films.

With so great an opportunity at hand, the music educator cannot afford to overlook the advantages and great possibilities which the motion picture has to offer the field of music education. There are many ways in which the teaching process may be improved with the use of the motion picture if the profession develops the interest and demand necessary for the production of excellent music films.

Before progress can be made toward better and more desirable music films, however, there must be an acquaintance with the films which are available today with a recognition of their good points and their shortcomings. It is the intention of this thesis to aid the profession in achieving such an acquaintance.


Method of Investigation

The films reported upon were viewed by the writer and evaluated on the basis of musical interest and value, educational interest and value, authenticity, filming technique, sound reproduction, adaptability to classroom use, and audience appeal.

Method of Presentation

The results of this investigation will be presented in five main sections: (1) The Introduction, which includes a Statement of the Thesis Problem, the Significance of the Subject, the Method of Investigation and the Method of Presentation, (2) The Determining Factors in Evaluation, (3) Motion Picture Evaluations, (4) Conclusions, and (5) Bibliography.

The Need for Evaluation

Existing reports on music films leave much to be desired in regard to a complete and adequate survey and evaluation. Generally speaking, these reports either only list available music films or include a very limited phase of the field in their evaluations. This thesis is intended to present an overall survey and evaluation of the available films for music education. Reference to other known reports, however, may be found in the bibliography of this document.
CHAPTER II

THE DETERMINING FACTORS IN EVALUATION

Musical Interest and Value

Each film has been judged in accordance with its musical interest and value. Each composition which is performed, either in part or entirety, is approved or rejected upon its musical merit and adaptability to the film. The performer and his performance is also studied in order that only those films which feature excellent performers in outstanding performances may be awarded top ratings.

Educational Interest and Value

The films which are viewed are also considered in regard to the educational qualities which they contain. To receive a good rating, the film should offer many opportunities for teaching, even though it was not originally produced with education as a basic factor in its production. Some educational films provide teaching guides which aid the teacher in preparing for the screening of the film. This factor is taken into consideration and noted in the review of each film concerned.

Authenticity

Another factor which is taken into consideration when a film is evaluated is the authenticity of the subject of the film.
Although this factor will not pertain to some films viewed, it plays an important part in many others. For example, a film which deals with a portrayal of a composer's life will be carefully scrutinized for any incorrect presentations which might occur. The presentation of a composition will also be noted, and the film will be rated below standard if any important cuts in valuable thematic material occur.

Filming Technique and Sound Reproduction

Though pertaining to the physical properties of the film, filming technique and sound reproduction are nevertheless of utmost importance to the success of the music film. The technique of filming refers to the views which are presented by the camera and their clarity, variety and interest. A film which contains a variety of views which change frequently and present the subject from interesting angles will have more appeal to the student and will receive a better rating than those films which present uninteresting views changed at less frequent intervals.

Although excellent sound reproduction cannot be achieved upon the present sixteen millimeter projector, the type used for educational films, there are varying degrees of sound quality in every film. Poor sound reproduction due to the film may be caused by age, excessive wear, an originally poor sound track and pickup equipment, and numerous breaks in the film which have been spliced, breaking the sound track and omitting portions of the sound. Since the sound reproduction is a very
important factor in the success or failure of a music film it is taken into consideration in the evaluation of the film, and poor sound is noted where necessary in the film reviews.

Adaptability to Classroom Use

Many films which are advertised by rental agencies as educational are not adaptable to the classroom for various reasons. The length of the film may be the prohibitive factor in its adaptability, since the film must be coordinated with classroom work in order to be most effective. Another factor is the age and outmoded style of some films which few rental agencies indicate in their catalogues. Those films which were originally produced for entertainment and do not present their subjects in an accepted manner should also be excluded from the classroom. Each film which is reviewed is approved or rejected upon this over-all factor.

Audience Appeal

A film may be approved in all other factors previously mentioned, but it will not be of great educational value if it does not appeal to the student audience. The students to which the films are shown must be interested in the contents of the films, and they should enjoy the productions if the full educational value is to be attained. This factor was not only taken into consideration in the film evaluations, but also was determined by observation of audiences to which many of these films were shown.
Explanation of Ratings

Films will be rated in four general classifications. These classifications are: Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor. If a film receives a classification of "Poor", it is not recommended for use. A "Fair" classification will indicate recommendation under certain conditions only. If a film receives a "Good" classification, it is recommended for use although certain qualities of the film prevent a higher classification from being awarded the film. An "Excellent" classification recommends a film unconditionally.

It should be kept in mind, however, that these ratings are general ratings only, and the explanation of each film will present a clearer picture of the evaluation of the film.
CHAPTER III

MOTION PICTURE FILM EVALUATIONS

Artist Films

Title .................. ANDANTE ET RONDO
Performer ................ Gregor Piatagorsky, Cellist
Music Performed ........... Andante et Rondo - Weber
Approximate Length ........ Five Minutes
Producer .................. Official Films
Rental Agency ............... Ideal Pictures Corp.
Rating ..................... Excellent

The film, Andante et Rondo, displays some very fine filming technique in addition to the artistry of its performer, Gregor Piatagorsky, one of the most eminent cellists of our day. The sound reproduction is satisfactory and the film is of sufficient quality and interest to receive an excellent rating.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>COOLIDGE QUARTET</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performers</td>
<td>The Coolidge String Quartet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Performed</td>
<td>Andante from String Quartet in E Flat -</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Von Dittersdorf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fugue from Quartet in C Major, Opus 59, No. 3 - Beethoven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate Length</td>
<td>Ten Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer</td>
<td>Official Films</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental Agency</td>
<td>Ideal Pictures Corp.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rating</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This film is of the highest type of quality in regard to musicianship, filming technique and educational interest. Especially outstanding is the filming technique which, in the fugue, follows the entrance of each theme by each instrument. This film is highly recommended.
Title ................................................. EMANUEL FEUERMANN, CELLIST
Performer ........................................... Emanuel Feuermann
Music Performed ................................. Ronдо, Opus 94, Dvorak
                                             Spinning Song—David Popper
Approximate Length ............................. Ten Minutes
Producer ............................................ Official Films
Rental Agencies ................................. Ideal Pictures Corp.
                                             University of Texas
Rating .............................................. Excellent

Emanuel Feuermann is presented in this film in a splendid manner, and his musicianship and technique are of the highest quality. One of the outstanding features of this film is the filming technique, which produces some amazing shots of Mr. Feuermann and his cello. One particular shot is taken from under the strings. This film is highly recommended.
Mr. Sandor, one of the eminent pianists of our day, is presented in this all-Liszt program in a splendid manner. The film has much appeal and the filming technique is of the highest quality. This film is recommended for screening.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>HYMN OF THE NATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performers</td>
<td>Arturo Toscanini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan Peerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The NBC Symphony Orchestra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Westminster Choir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Performed</td>
<td>La Forza del Destino-Verdi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hymn of the Nations-Verdi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate Length</td>
<td>Thirty Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer</td>
<td>Holmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Agencies</td>
<td>Visual Education, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rating</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hymn of the Nations is the filming of a special broadcast which celebrated the downfall of Mussolini and the Fascist regime in Italy. Included is a resume of the ideals of Mr. Toscanini and fellow countrymen who throughout the years have fought the Fascist doctrines.

Outstanding in the film are the excellent shots of Mr. Toscanini, called the greatest conductor of our times. The screening of this film is recommended particularly because of these pictures of the great maestro shown in action.

The NBC Symphony Orchestra renders a masterful performance of Verdi's famed Overture, La Forza del Destino. The film falls short of the Excellent rating, however, because of the performance of the featured composition, Hymn of the Nations. Although Jan Peerce and the Westminster Choir attempt to project their voices over the sounds of the orchestra, they are unable to do
so effectively, and the result is an overbalanced performance of this composition. The composition itself is also one which does not satisfy the demands of a continuity which a good musical composition requires, and although the patriotic flare is aroused by the mixture of the anthems of the countries, much is left to be desired.

Otherwise, however, the film has enough merit to warrant a recommendation for screening.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>IGOR GORIN, BARITONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performer</td>
<td>Igor Gorin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Performed</td>
<td><em>Largo al Factotum from &quot;The Barber of Seville&quot; by Rossini</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate Length</td>
<td>Ten Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer</td>
<td>Official Films</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Agencies</td>
<td><em>University of Texas Ideal Pictures Corp.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rating</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The humorous aria from Rossini's opera is sung by Mr. Gorin in a splendid manner. The filming technique is of the best quality, and the sound reproduction is satisfactory. This film should have great appeal among vocal students particularly.
Title .................................. JOSE ITURBI, HARPSICHORD
Performer ................................ Jose Iturbi
Music Performed .......................... Three pieces for Harpsichord - Rameau
                                      Eleventh Hungarian Rhapsody - Liszt
Approximate Length ....................... Ten Minutes
Producer .................................. Official Films
Rental Agencies ........................... University of Texas
                                      Ideal Pictures Corp.
Rating .................................... Excellent

Mr. Iturbi opens the film with a brief explanation of the harpsichord and its functions. He then plays three short pieces written for the instrument and demonstrates the differences between the harpsichord and the modern pianoforte. This film should be of utmost interest to students of the piano as well as to classes studying the history of the keyboard instruments. It is well planned, filmed and executed and is recommended for use unconditionally.
Jose Iturbi, Pianist

Sevilla - Albeniz
Valse Brillante - Chopin

Ten Minutes

Official Films

Ideal Pictures Corp.
University of Texas

Excellent

A seasoned veteran in motion picture filming, Mr. Iturbi presents the program in this film with great ease. The compositions have much appeal, and the filming technique can be rated among the most excellent films. Some extraordinary shots of the keyboard are presented in this film. Splendid results can be achieved with the presentation of this film.
Title ............... MILDRED DILLING, HARPIST
Performer ............... Mildred Dilling
Music Performed ............... The Fountain - Zabel
                                          Firefly - Hasselman
                                          March of the Men of Harlech
Approximate Length ............... Ten Minutes
Producer ............... Official Films
Rental Agencies ............... Ideal Pictures Corp.
                                          University of Texas
Rating ............... Excellent

Dilling in this film not only renders the compositions which she plays in a very splendid manner, but also explains some of the characteristics of the harp and its general history. This film should prove a valuable one to music education.
Title: MOONLIGHT SONATA
Performer: Ignace Jan Paderewski
Music Performed: Minuet – Paderewski 1st Movement Moonlight Sonata – Beethoven
Approximate Length: Ten Minutes
Producer: Official Films
Rental Agency: Ideal Pictures Corp.
Rating: Good

This film receives the good rating only because of some good views of this late artist, composer and statesman. Otherwise, the filming technique is not good since it spends much unnecessary time in picturing an audience instead of the performer himself. One scene of the artist is a faked one although it is only for a few moments.

The sound track is clear however, and this film should be of interest to music classes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>MYRA HESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Performer</strong></td>
<td>Myra Hess, Pianist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Music Performed</strong></td>
<td>Appassionata Sonata lst Movement-Beethoven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approximate Length</strong></td>
<td>Ten Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Producer</strong></td>
<td>British Information Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rental Agency</strong></td>
<td>Visual Education, Inc. British Information Service National Film Board of Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rating</strong></td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Myra Hess, the foremost woman pianist of our day, plays the First Movement of the Appassionata Sonata of Beethoven with much feeling and with a superb musicianship. This film is highly recommended for use.
Title ........................................... VRONSKY AND BABIN, DUO-PIANISTS
Performers ................................... Vronsky and Babin
Music Performed ............................. Reel 1
Waltz in A-Flat - Brahms
Valse - Arensky
Flight of the Bumblebee - Rimsky-Korsakoff
Reel 2
Polovitzian
Dances from "Prince Igor" - Borodin
Approximate Length ........................ Each reel - Ten Minutes
Producer ..................................... Official Films
Rental Agencies .............................. University of Texas
Ideal Pictures Corp.
Rating ........................................ Excellent

Good filming technique, sound reproduction, and superb two-piano technique are exhibited in these two films. The films may be shown separately or together.
Jacques Thibaud is presented in this film and plays with much finesse and musicianship. This film can be used to advantage, although the print which was viewed was beginning to show wear.
Composer Films

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>BEETHOVEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approximate Length</td>
<td>Ten Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer</td>
<td>Fitzpatrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Agency</td>
<td>Ideal Pictures Corp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rating</td>
<td>Poor</td>
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</table>

A film in the old Fitzpatrick silent series, this production is not suited for school use. The old style technique coupled with poor photography renders this film useless in presenting this composer's life.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>BIZET</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approximate Length</strong></td>
<td>Ten Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Producer</strong></td>
<td>Fitzpatrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rental Agency</strong></td>
<td>Ideal Pictures Corp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rating</strong></td>
<td>Poor</td>
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</table>

Filmed in old style technique, *Bizet* has a sound track which has been added since the advent of sound motion pictures. There is not enough value in the film to warrant its showing, and it would certainly be greeted with snickers from school age students. Not recommended.
Presenting the life of Johannes Brahms, this Fitzpatrick film is of the silent film type with the added sound track and is not suitable for use in the public schools. In addition, the print is old and worn and is not satisfactory.
Title .................................. CHOPIN
Approximate Length .................. Ten Minutes
Producer ................................ Fitzpatrick
Rental Agency ......................... Ideal Pictures Corp.
Rating .................................. Poor

An old silent film which has the sound track added, Chopin is not recommended. The outmoded acting technique which is used and the jerky movements of the actors would only draw laughs to say the least.
FINLANDIA

Performers
Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra - String Quartet, Jan Sibelius

Music Performed
Excerpts from Symphony No. 2 - Sibelius Voces Intimae - String Quartet Finlandia

Approximate Length
Ten Minutes

Producer
Sterling Films

Rental Agency
Ideal Pictures Corp.

Rating
Poor

Evidently taken from an European Commercial Film, Finlandia is not suited for use in the schools. The compositions of Sibelius are ruthlessly cut and patched into this ten-minute film. In addition to these rough versions of compositions, there are films of Sibelius in his home at various tasks. These shots of the Finnish composer are the most valuable of the film, but their importance is not great enough to merit a recommendation for the entire film.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>GOLDEN MOUNTAINS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performers</td>
<td>Moscow Orchestra with Dimitri Shostakovitch at the piano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Performed</td>
<td>&quot;Waltz&quot; from Golden Mountains-Shostakovitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate Length</td>
<td>Five Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer</td>
<td>Mosfilm Productions, USSR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Agency</td>
<td>Ideal Pictures Corp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rating</td>
<td>Poor</td>
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</table>

This film was viewed with the hope of discovering a film which had many views of the composer, Dimitri Shostakovitch; however, the part which is played by Mr. Shostakovitch is insignificant and incidental. The composition is not the best example of a Shostakovitch creation, and there is not enough piano work in the composition to warrant a featuring of the piano. This film is not recommended.
Title .................................. LISZT  
Approximate Length .................. Ten Minutes  
Producer ................................ Fitzpatrick  
Rental Agency .......................... Ideal Pictures Corp.  
Rating .................................. Poor  

A member of the Fitzpatrick Music Masters Series, this film is not suited for school use since it is presented in the old silent film technique with an added sound track.
Title.......................... MENDELSSOHN
Approximate Length......... Ten Minutes
Producer.................... Fitzpatrick
Rental Agency.............. Ideal Pictures Corp.
Rating....................... Poor

This film is not suitable for school use since it is
the member of a silent series presented by Fitzpatrick. The
age and condition of the film is poor in addition to having
the poor silent technique and the dubbed in sound track.
Title ............... ROSSINI
Approximate Length ........ Ten Minutes
Producer ................ Fitzpatrick
Rental Agency ............... Ideal Pictures Corp.
Rating ................... Poor

This film is another in the Fitzpatrick series which was filmed before the advent of the sound motion picture. As a result, the characters of the screen play presented follow the old, silent film technique which is not suitable for use in the schools.
Title . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . STRAUSS
Approximate Length . . . . . . . Ten Minutes
Producer . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Fitzpatrick
Rental Agency . . . . . . . . . . Ideal Pictures Corp.
Rating . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Poor

This film is not suited for school use since it has been filmed in the silent technique with an added sound track. The age and condition of this print are also poor.
Films included in series.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Films</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beautiful Dreamer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camptown Races</td>
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<td>Come Where My Love Lies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dreaming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeannie with the Light</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown Hair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Massa's in the Cold,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cold Ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Old Kentucky Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelly Bly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelly was a Lady Old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Joe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Dog Tray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Folks at Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oh Susanna</td>
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Performers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ken Darby and The King's Men Quartet</td>
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</table>

Music Performed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Music Performed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The songs of Stephen Foster as indicated by the title of each film.</td>
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</table>

Approximate Length.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Each film is twenty minutes in length</td>
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Producer.

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<tr>
<td>Admiral Films</td>
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Rental Agency.

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<td>Ideal Pictures Corp. Visual Education, Inc.</td>
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Rating.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Filmed in color and black and white, this Stephen Foster Series depicts in each film the events which led to the composition of each of Foster's songs as indicated by the title. These films should be of great interest to classes studying the life and songs of Stephen Foster.

The films may be shown as a series which depicts the
entire life of Stephen Foster, or a single film may be shown, since each film is an entity within itself. The disadvantage in viewing the films as a series not only lies in the prohibitive cost, but also in the fact that each film opens in the same manner. If the cost of all films can be met, it would be advisable to present the film from the beginning of the separate story which is presented rather than showing the film from the very beginning. This preliminary opening on each film is very short so that it would be easily possible to omit the opening.

The chronological unfolding of Foster's life begins with his boyhood at the writing of "Oh, Susanna" and is culminated with his death and the writing of "Beautiful Dreamer" in the last moments of his life. A resume of each film is available in the catalog of the rental agency listed in this document.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>TSCHAIKOWSKY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approximate Length</strong></td>
<td>Ten Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Producer</strong></td>
<td>Fitzpatrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rental Agency</strong></td>
<td>Ideal Pictures Corp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rating</strong></td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A member of the Fitzpatrick series, this film is not suitable for classroom use because of its outdated and outmoded silent-picture style and added sound track.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>VERDI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approximate Length</strong></td>
<td>Ten Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Producer</strong></td>
<td>Fitzpatrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rental Agency</strong></td>
<td>Ideal Pictures Corp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rating</strong></td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Filmed in the silent technique, this film on the famous Italian opera composer is not in good style at the present time and is, therefore, unsuited for the classroom. The print is also well worn and is not satisfactory.
Elementary Education Films

**Title** .................................. CHANTS POPULAIRES SERIES

**Music Performed** ......................... French Folk Songs

- Reel 1 - "En roulant ma boule" and "A la claire fontaine"
- Reel 2 - "Envoyons D'l'avant nos gens" and "Aupres de ma blonde"
- Reel 3 - "La-bas sur ces montagnes" and "Trois canards"
- Reel 4 - "Filez, filez, o mon navire" and "J'ai tant dansé"
- Reel 5 - "En passant" and "C'est l'aviron"

**Approximate Length** .................... Ten Minutes for each reel

**Producer** ................................ National Film Board of Canada

**Rental Agency** ........................... National Film Board of Canada Visual Education, Inc.

**Rating** .................................. Good

The Chants Populaires Series makes use of the animated cartoon to present these French folk songs while a male quartet renders the numbers. These films were viewed and presented in order to show the value and possibilities of teaching by means of cartoon. Each film in this series presents the song concerned with an accompanying cartoon and provides additional time in which the group is to sing along with the film.
Since the entire series is in French, there are limitations placed upon the use of these films throughout our school systems, but there is possible use for them in conjunction with classes in French. This technique is to be recognized and it is hoped that additional films will soon be available which will be satisfactory for use in our school music classes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>CADET ROUSSELLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Music Performed</td>
<td>Cadet Rousselle, A French Folk Song Dating from 1792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate Length</td>
<td>Five Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer</td>
<td>National Film Board of Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Agency</td>
<td>National Film Board of Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rating</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employing animation technique, this French folk song is performed by a male quartet as the characters in animation perform. The film is entirely in French and is filmed in color.

This film was viewed and evaluated mainly for the technique which was used, since it could not be used in our schools with the exception of French classes. The use of the animation technique in the presentation of songs to elementary age students has great possibilities and it is hoped that the United States will soon produce good elementary education films for use in our schools. The animation in this film cannot compare with the technique perfected by United States films, but yet it is of great value in presenting this French folk song.
As Mr. Cortot plays each descriptive movement of the familiar *Children's Corner Suite*, the camera moves to a little girl and her toys. The toys act out each part of the suite.

This film should be of great interest to elementary school children, and the technique in which it is presented is of excellent quality. The performance of a famous artist in conjunction with a characterization should not only be of great interest to the young students but also should help to introduce to them a famous artist and serious music.
Title: CHRISTMAS CAROLS
Music Performed: Familiar Carols of the Christmas Season
Approximate Length: Ten Minutes
Producer: National Film Board of Canada
Rental Agency: National Film Board of Canada
Rating: Good

As these familiar Christmas Carols are sung, scenes of the Yuletide season are presented in color by the animation technique. This should prove interesting to the youngsters especially during the Christmas Season.

The animation technique of this film cannot be compared to the technique perfected by the United States film companies, but is of significance in the fact that it is employed in one of the few films available which uses this medium for educational purposes.
Title . . . . . . . . . . RHYTHM IS EVERYWHERE
Approximate Length . . . . . Ten Minutes
Producer . . . . . . . . . Teaching Films, Inc.
Rental Agency . . . . . . . Ideal Pictures Corp.
Rating . . . . . . . . . . . Excellent

Produced in 1947, Rhythm is Everywhere is one of the first teaching films designed for the elementary grades. Following a screen play form, the film begins as a youngster starts to school, and as he progresses he imitates the various rhythms which he hears. These rhythms are produced by a windmill, a railroad train, a cow chewing her cud, and the gallop of a horse. Upon his arrival at school, the teacher helps him find other noises which produce rhythm.

This film introduces the vast area of effectiveness which the motion picture film may have if it is applied to the early grades. It is hoped that many such films will soon be in demand and will be produced by our various companies.
An interesting cartoon story set to Strauss' music, Tales of the Vienna Woods is viewed for its possibilities in the elementary grades. Primarily intended for a commercial cartoon, this film, nevertheless, carries some traits which are valuable for use in the elementary grades. There are few films which use the cartoon as a teaching device for music, and the possibilities of teaching are unlimited in this field. It is hoped that the demand for good music education films will increase sufficiently in order that more of this type of film can be produced.

The print which was viewed by the writer was very poor, and extreme care should be taken in securing a satisfactory print of this film before screening.
General Music Education
Interest Films

Title ........................................... EDINBURG FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND DRAMA

Approximate Length ..................... Ten Minutes

Producer ................................. British Information Services

Rental Agency ......................... Ideal Pictures Corp.

Rating ........................................ Excellent

Presenting scenes at the International Festival of Music and Drama which is held in this historic city, this film should be of great interest to music classes. Not only are phases of activity at the festival shown, but also there are some beautiful scenic pictures of Edinburg and the surrounding countryside which are presented. This film is highly recommended.
Title: EXPLORING TALENT AT INTERLOCHEN

Approximate Length: Thirty Minutes

Producer: National Music Camp, Interlochen, Michigan

Rental Agency: University of Texas

Rating: Excellent

Filmed in color, Exploring Talent at Interlochen deals with camp life at the world's largest music camp. The film not only reveals the various activities of the campers, but also adds scenes of true pictorial beauty.

This particular film of camp life at Interlochen is primarily concerned with the Junior Division of the camp and has many scenes of the boys and girls of elementary and junior high school age in the prescribed activities of the camp. Also filmed are the various musical organizations of the entire camp, including the junior and senior bands, orchestras and vocal groups.

The value of the film lies not in the musical excerpts which it contains, but in the motivation which it will invariably cultivate among all students of school age. In this use, the film is highly recommended.
Title. . . . . . . . . . . . . . HOW TO TWIRL A BATON
Performer. . . . . . . . . . . . . Roger Lee

Approximate Length. . . . . . . Ten Minutes
Producer. . . . . . . . . . . . . Young American Films

Rental Agency. . . . . . . . . . Ideal Pictures Corp.
                          Visual Education, Inc.

Rating. . . . . . . . . . . . . . Good (For specialized classes only)

Illustrating the basic rudiments of twirling, Roger Lee, famous twirler, displays excellent technique and splendid example to those who follow the twirling phase of school bands. Although this film cannot be classified as a music film, it is so closely allied in many of our schools with the band program that it would be of some help in that field.

The film is not recommended for general classes, but only to a few who have been chosen by the director of the band to serve as twirlers.
Title: KATHAKALI-DANCE OF INDIA
Performers: Leading Indian dancers of the sacred Kathak dance
Music Performed: Native music of India
Approximate Length: Ten Minutes
Producer: Films of the Nations
Rental Agencies: Ideal Pictures Corp.
Rating: Excellent

Kathakali is a film depicting the sacred dance of India, the students of the dance, and the various expressions which must be mastered in order to participate in the dance. It is recommended for music classes in conjunction with the film Musical Instruments of India, elsewhere reviewed in this document, for an acquaintance with Oriental instruments, music and customs.
Title .................................. LISTEN TO THE PRAIRIES

Performers ........................................ School age children and youth in performance at the Music Festival in Winnipeg, Canada

Approximate Length ......................... Twenty Minutes

Producer ........................................ National Film Board of Canada

Rental Agency ................................. Visual Education, Inc.

Rating ......................................... Excellent

A filming of the Music Festival for school age children and youth sponsored by the city of Winnipeg, Listen to the Prairies is a particularly splendid film for school use. Including soloists, choirs, instrumental organizations, and operetta production in all ages of school life, this film should be of great interest to the schools of the United States.
**Title**

MUSIC IN AMERICA

**Performers.**

New Haven Symphony Orchestra
Perry Como
Bea Wain
George Gershwin
Benny Goodman
Dixieland Band, New Orleans
Art Tatum
Eddie Condon
Eugene List
Marian Anderson
Quilet Quartet
Sergi Koussevitsky
and Boston Symphony Orchestra
Metropolitan Opera Company

**Music Performed**

Excerpts of Aida - Verdi
Scheherezade - Rimsky-Korsakov
Tschaikowsky Piano Concerto
Other jazz and serious music compositions

**Approximate Length.**

Twenty Minutes

**Producer.**

March of Time

**Rental Agencies**

Ideal Pictures Corp.
University of Texas Audio Video
Visual Education, Inc.

**Rating.**

Good

The March of Time, in producing the film, MUSIC IN AMERICA, seeks to include all types of music which exist in the United States today. This becomes difficult in a twenty minute period. Nevertheless, the film has value in intro-
ducing for general interest, the phases of American musical life. The famous artists in each field of music are presented, and this factor gives the film great value. Weak points of the film include the great mass of material covered only slightly in the short period of time, the short excerpts of music which are heard, and the false glamour placed upon the professional music field. A teaching guide has been made available with the film and should be used to introduce the various subjects which the film covers.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>REHEARSAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Performers            | Blanche Thebom  
|                       | Ezio Pinza    
|                       | Donald Voorhees and  
|                       | the Bell Telephone  
|                       | Orchestra     |
| Music Performed       | Overture, "The Bartered  
|                       | Bride", - Smetana  
|                       | Aria from "Samson and  
|                       | Delilah", - Saent-Saens  
|                       | Duet from "Don Giovanni"  
|                       | Mozart        
|                       | Le'Cor        |
| Approximate Length    | Twenty-Five Minutes |
| Producer              | The Bell Telephone  
|                       | System        |
| Rental Agency         | University of Texas  |
| Rating                | Excellent     |

Long famous as one of the outstanding musical programs on the air, The Bell Telephone Hour is now presented in film. Taken under rehearsal conditions, this film shows the work which precedes the actual performance over the radio and should be of great interest to students. Miss Thebom and Mr. Pinza perform with utmost quality the works which the film presents.

Made available to the various educational rental agencies at no charge, this film is very reasonable since only a service fee is connected with its rental. There is a brief and well-placed commercial which is not unwelcome since it explains some of the research being done by the Bell Telephone System today.
This Russian film employs a portion of the Swan Lake Ballet to great advantage, and the film should be of general interest to music classes. The ballet troupe does a splendid and effective performance and is of the highest caliber.

The Russians have not equaled the American film technique in regard to clarity, and the film is not of the highest type in regard to the best technique because of the lack of this essential item; however, the film is well worth screening in the schools.
Title . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER
Approximate Length. . . . . . . . . Ten Minutes
Producer. . . . . . . . . . . . . American Film Foundation
Rental Agency . . . . . . . . . Ideal Pictures Corp.
Rating. . . . . . . . . . . . . Poor

An old silent technique film with added sound track, this production re-enacts the life of Francis Scott Key, the composer of our national anthem, together with the circumstances under which *The Star Spangled Banner* was written.

The poor filming and the outmoded technique of acting render this film useless for classroom teaching.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>THE TELEPHONE HOUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performers</td>
<td>Josef Hoffman, Pianist Donald Voorhees and the Bell Telephone Orchestra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Performed</td>
<td>Overture &quot;Il Guarany&quot; - Gomez Prelude in C-Sharp Minor- Rachmaninoff Fourth Movement of the Fifth Piano Concerto (Emperor) - Beethoven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate Length</td>
<td>Twenty Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer</td>
<td>The Bell Telephone System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Agency</td>
<td>University of Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rating</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is a presentation on the screen of a famous radio program, The Bell Telephone Hour. A companion picture to the film, Rehearsal, also produced by the Bell Telephone System, this particular film presents the program as if it were being performed over the network. Phases of network communication are pictured, and an explanation of the various ways in which television may be transmitted throughout the United States is given as the commercial part of the program.

This film should be of great advantage to the teachers of music not only from the value which should be derived from its use, but also from the fact that there is no rental charge made for its screening.
Title . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . YOUTH BUILDS A SYMPHONY
Approximate Length . . . . . . . . . Twenty Minutes
Producer . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . National Music Camp at Interlochen, Michigan
Rental Agency . . . . . . . . . . . . . University of Texas
Rating . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Excellent

A companion film to Exploring Talent at Interlochen, previously reviewed, this film concerns itself with activities at the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Michigan. The primary interest in this film lies with the preparation for performance of Howard Hanson's Romantic Symphony by the various sections of the orchestra. The film is concluded with a portion of the performance of this work directed by the composer. There are other activities presented in this film, however, including shots of the other groups of the camp as well as recreational activities offered by the camp.

The sound reproduction of the film at times is not clear; however, if the film is used as a motivating force for school musical organizations, it must receive an excellent rating for this use.
Instrumental Education Films

Title: CARILLION MAKERS
Approximate Length: Ten Minutes
Producer: Hoffberg
Rental Agency: Ideal Pictures Corp.
Rating: Fair

The film, Carillon Makers, presents the construction of the bells of the carillon, the structure of the carillon, a school of carillon playing, and some Belgian carillon performers. Some interesting pictures of this instrument are shown, and the film can be considered a valuable one.

The fault which lowers the rating of this film is the poor sound reproduction and the age of the film and print itself. If a new print could be located, the film would be useful.
Instruments of the Orchestra is the best film to date which teaches the recognition of the instruments in the symphony orchestra. One of its outstanding features is the music which is used to present each instrument. Written by the contemporary British composer, Benjamin Britten, this work is better known as "A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra" and has been performed and recorded by our major symphony orchestras because of its musical value. The film achieves a great continuity through the use of this composition, and the most highly trained musician will enjoy this film because of its music. Each instrument is presented in a variation of the Purcell theme.
best suited for it, and the Fugue is used to review the complete orchestra. This film should be shown to all music classes.
# ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approximate Length</td>
<td>Ten Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer</td>
<td>Pathe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Agency</td>
<td>Ideal Pictures Corp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rating</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A film which was made in the early days of the sound motion picture, this film exhibits the Wurlitzer collection of string instruments, with the identification of each instrument made by Mr. J. C. Freeman, curator of the collection. Mr. Freeman reveals the maker and the age of each instrument and short compositions are performed to reveal the quality of tone which these valuable instruments have.

In addition, there is a section which deals with early instruments, narrated by Herr Professor Sachs. This section is narrated entirely in German, with the translation appearing in print.

The film is not suitable for use in public schools because of age and wear as well as because of the uninteresting method of presentation which is employed.
Presented in this film are the leading musical instruments of both northern and southern India. Made in New Dehli, this film is one of the most authentic to date on the instruments of the Orient. Leading performers of India present the instruments which they play and perform the compositions common to the country.

The film is a very interesting one and should be viewed by all music classes if possible in addition to all geography classes which study the Orient.
Title . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . MUSIC IN THE WIND

Music Performed . . . . . . . . . . . . Toccata and Fugue in D Minor - Bach

Approximate Length . . . . . . . . Ten Minutes

Producer . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . National Film Board of Canada

Rental Agency . . . . . . . . . . . . . . National Film Board of Canada

Visual Education, Inc.

Rating . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Good

Filmed in the organ factory of Casavant Freres, St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, Music in the Wind presents the development of the organ, its history, and the building of the modern organ. After the final assemblage, Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor is preformed.

The only prohibitive factor in this film is the sound reproduction. The sound of an organ is very difficult to produce on film. This film is definitely recommended for its educational value, however.
Title: STORY OF THE VIOLIN

Approximate Length: Twenty Minutes

Producer: National Film Board of Canada

Rental Agency: National Film Board of Canada

Rating: Excellent

This film is one of the most valuable films produced recently for use in the teaching of music. Filmed in color, its principal subject is the construction of a violin beginning with the selection of the wood and ending with the completion of the instrument. The subject is presented in story form which should appeal to all school age children, particularly those of high elementary and younger junior high school age; however, the film is of sufficient interest to be shown to all ages. As the instrument is constructed, the various parts and their names are presented in animated technique, and this presentation should be of great value in the teaching of the parts of the violin.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>THE BRASS CHOIR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Performers</strong></td>
<td>The Brass Section of a Symphony Orchestra Howard Barlow, Conductor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Music Performed</strong></td>
<td>Excerpts from Fourth Movement, Fifth Symphony Beethoven Nocturne, Midsummer Night's Dream - Mendelssohn Pilgrims Chorus from Tannhauser - Wagner Leading Motive from The Ring - Wagner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approximate Length</strong></td>
<td>Ten Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Producer</strong></td>
<td>Encyclopedia Britannica Films</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rental Agencies</strong></td>
<td>Encyclopedia Britannica Films Ideal Pictures Corp. University of Texas Visual Education, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rating</strong></td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The brass section of the orchestra illustrates its duties by means of musical example. This film is one of the series produced in 1938 and directed by Peter Dykema. It should be used in connection with the other films of the series.

Extreme care should be exercised in securing a print of this film, since the age and constant use of many prints render them ineffective for classroom use.
One of the series of films directed by Peter Dykema and produced in 1938, The Percussion Group illustrates by musical examples the instruments of the percussion section and their uses. The film should be used in connection with the other films of this series, reviewed in this section.

Extreme care should be taken in securing a print of this film since the age and constant use of many prints render these films worthless for school use.
Title ........................................... THE STRING CHOIR
Performers ...........................................

The String Section of a Symphony Orchestra
Howard Barlow, Conductor

Music Performed .....................................

Excerpts from Third Movement, Fifth Symphony
Tschaikowsky
Violin Concerto - Mendelssohn
William Tell Overture - Rossini
Unfinished Symphony (No. 8 in E Minor) - Schubert

Approximate Length ................................ Ten Minutes
Producer ..............................................

Encyclopedia Britannica Films

Rental Agencies ....................................... Encyclopedia Britannica Films
Ideal Pictures Corp.
University of Texas Visual Education, Inc.

Rating .................................................. Good

The string choir of the orchestra is presented by
appropriate orchestral example in this film which is one of
the series directed by Peter Dykema and produced in 1938.
The solo functions of the instruments are also shown. This
film should be shown along with the other members of the
Dykema Series, and the print which is to be shown should be
of good quality, since there are many prints of this film
which are poor.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>THE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performers</td>
<td>Howard Barlow, Conductor, and Symphony Orchestra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Music Performed     | Prelude to Third Act of Lohengrin - Wagner  
Ride of the Valkyries - Wagner  
Excerpts from Fourth Movement, Fifth Symphony Beethoven  
Fourth Movement, Fourth Symphony - Tschaikowsky  
Scherzo, Midsummer Night's Dream - Mendelssohn  
Marche Militaire - Schubert |
| Approximate Length  | Ten Minutes |
| Producer            | Encyclopedia Britannica Films |
| Rental Agencies     | Encyclopedia Britannica Films  
Ideal Pictures Corp.  
University of Texas Visual Education, Inc. |
| Rating              | Good |

This instructional film, made in 1938 under the direction of Peter Dykema, relates the work of the symphony orchestra, its sections, and the various demands made upon it by the conductor. The film also depicts the part played by the composer and the conductor and presents all examples with fine music.

The film is inferior to the British film, Instruments of
the Orchestra, but nevertheless can be used to advantage in teaching. There are four additional films in this series which are reviewed in this document, and these should be used in connection with the use of this particular film.

Extreme care should be exercised in securing a print of this film since the original release date was eleven years ago. Many existing prints are poor because of constant use and age, and should not be shown in the schools.
Title: THE WOODWIND CHOIR

Performers: Woodwind Section of a Symphony Orchestra, Howard Barlow, Conductor

Music Performed: Excerpts from Third Movement, First Symphony Brahms
William Tell Overture - Rossini
Second Movement, Third Symphony - Beethoven
Oberon - Weber
Second Movement, Fourth Symphony - Brahms
Scherzo - Midsummer Night's Dream - Mendelssohn

Approximate Length: Ten Minutes

Producer: Encyclopedia Britannica Films

Rental Agencies: Ideal Pictures Corp.
Encyclopedia Britannica Films
University of Texas Visual Education, Inc.

Rating: Good

Each woodwind instrument of the orchestra is presented in this film with appropriate orchestral example. A film of the Dykema Series produced in 1938, The Woodwind Choir should be used in that series to be most effective. Care should be exercised in obtaining a print of this film since the age and constant use will render it unsatisfactory for school use.
Musical Acoustics Films

Title . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . FUNDAMENTALS OF ACoustics

Approximate Length. . . . . . . Ten Minutes

Producer. . . . . . . . . . . . . Encyclopedia Britannica Films

Rental Agencies . . . . . . . Encyclopedia Britannica Films
University of Texas
Ideal Pictures Corp.

Rating. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Excellent

This film presents the various fundamental laws of sound in a clear, concise manner and is definitely recommended. This difference between this film and the Coronet film series on acoustics lies in the fact that the Coronet series is designed for students of school age in a much more general way, while Fundamentals of Acoustics should appeal to more advanced students of physics. For this group the film is recommended, as well as to the music students of advanced standing in the schools.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>SOUND WAVES AND THEIR SOURCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approximate Length</td>
<td>Ten Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer</td>
<td>Encyclopedia Britannica Films</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Agencies</td>
<td>Encyclopedia Britannica Films</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ideal Pictures Corp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visual Education, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rating</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dealing with the various properties of sound waves and the types of origination of these waves, this film covers adequately the subject which it presents. There is also a splendid explanation of the overtone series, and the many diagrams which are used by the film are helpful in explaining the various acoustical aspects of sound.

This film, a companion film to *Fundamentals of Acoustics*, is designed in much the same way and, therefore, would be of special interest to those more advanced in physics and music than to younger classes.
Title . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . THE NATURE OF SOUND

Approximate Length . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Ten Minutes

Producer . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Coronet Instructional Films

Rental Agencies . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Ideal Pictures Corp.
              Audio Video, Inc.

Rating . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Excellent

A general film on the properties of sound, The Nature of Sound is one of a series of films recently presented by Coronet Films. It is a well-planned film, particularly suited for public school use. A screen play form is used to present the material on sound. This play is built around the visit of a boy of school age to his uncle's amateur radio station. The material is presented in an interesting manner and should be used in all music classes as well as in all physics classes.
Title . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . THE SOUNDS OF MUSIC
Approximate Length . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Ten Minutes
Producer . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Coronet Instructional Films
Rental Agencies . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Ideal Pictures Corp.
Audio Video Corp.
Rating . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Excellent

A recent release, The Sounds of Music presents the problem of musical acoustics in a manner particularly suited for the high school student. Following a screen play pattern, the film reveals a boy and girl of school age entering a music shop to learn of the various problems and truths involved in musical acoustics. The proprietor of the shop explains the various properties of musical sounds to them.

This film should be of untold value to the teacher of music in presenting the acoustical problems which should be taught to all music students. The film is equally suited for physics classes and should be shown in our schools.
### Musical Composition Films

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>CARNIVAL ROMAIN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performers</td>
<td>Paris Conservatory Orchestra, directed by Phillippe Gaubert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Performed</td>
<td>Overture, Carnival Romain, by Hector Berlioz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate Length</td>
<td>Ten Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer</td>
<td>Ideal Pictures Corp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Agency</td>
<td>Ideal Pictures Corp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rating</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The age and condition of the print are the objectionable qualities of this film, and the sound track is very poor. This film is not recommended.
Title . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . FLYING DUTCHMAN OVERTURE

Performers . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Paris Conservatory Orchestra, directed by Robert Heger

Music Performed . . . . . . . . . . . . Overture to "The Flying Dutchman" - Wagner

Approximate Length . . . . . . . . . . Ten Minutes

Producer . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Ideal Pictures Corp.

Rental Agency . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Ideal Pictures Corp.

Rating . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Poor

The age and condition of the film are the most prohibitive factors in recommending this film. The overture, though cut, is performed well, but the sound is poor because of numerous splices in the film as well as because of the surface noise. Not recommended.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>GREAT SYMPHONIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performers</td>
<td>Frederick Feher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>conducting a symphony orchestra - Terence McKenzie, Alice Avakian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Performed</td>
<td>Blue Danube Waltz - Strauss Romance - Feher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate Length</td>
<td>Ten Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer</td>
<td>Castle Films</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Agency</td>
<td>Southwest Soundfilms Visual Education, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rating</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although this is a relatively new film, much is left to be desired in regard to educational content. The title itself is misleading, since no actual symphony is performed. "The Blue Danube Waltz" is not performed as an orchestral composition but has two vocal soloists added with a group of ballet dancers. On the whole, this performance is disappointing. The second composition, written by the conductor, also features two soloists, but it is of better quality than the first. This film may be used if desired, but if the students are to receive a true conception of symphonic music, there should be a preliminary explanation which discounts the use of the soloists and dancers.
**Title** .............................................. GYPSY MELODY

**Performers** ........................................ Marusya Georgievskaya
Zinaida Ouzarova
Julio Ovanguran
Alexis Tcherkassky
Ensemble directed by Andre Salama

**Music Performed** .................................. Various Gypsy Folk Songs

**Approximate Length** ............................... Twenty Minutes

**Producer** ........................................... Hoffberg Productions

**Rental Agency** .................................... Ideal Pictures Corp.

**Rating** ............................................. Poor

The failure of this film to receive a better rating is its non-adaptability to classroom use. Although made as an entertainment film, it has been advertised as an educational film, but the atmosphere under which it is presented is not adaptable to classroom use.
This film consists of a silent film which has as its musical background the Hungarian Rhapsody. It is a typical melodrama of the early motion picture days, and should not be advertised as a music education film. It is not recommended for use.
Title: KEYBOARD CONCERT, FIRST PORTFOLIO

Performers: The Paolo Gallico Three Piano Ensemble

Music Performed: Artist Life Waltz - Strauss
Minute Waltz - Chopin

Approximate Length: Ten Minutes

Producer: Pictorial Films

Rental Agency: Visual Education, Inc.
Ideal Pictures Corp.

Rating: Good

Demonstrating the difference in the Concert Waltz and the Waltz, the Gallico Three Piano Ensemble performs arrangements of the Strauss waltz, "Artist Life" and the "Minute Waltz" of Chopin. This film may be used for this purpose in addition to the presentation of a three-piano ensemble.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>KEYBOARD CONCERT, THIRD PORTFOLIO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Performers</strong></td>
<td>The Paolo Gallico Three Piano Ensemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Music Performed</strong></td>
<td>Soiree de Vienne - Schubert, Moment Musical in F Minor - Schubert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approximate Length</strong></td>
<td>Ten Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Producer</strong></td>
<td>Pictorial Films</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rental Agency</strong></td>
<td>Visual Education, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rating</strong></td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Playing the music of Schubert, the Gallico Three Piano Ensemble illustrates the style of this great master. This film may be used for the works of Schubert presented as well as for the presentation of a three-piano ensemble.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>OVERTURE, DER FREISCHUTZ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performers</td>
<td>The Paris Conservatory Orchestra, Felix Wein-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>gartner, Conducting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Performed</td>
<td>Der Freischutz Overture - C. M. Von Weber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate Length</td>
<td>Ten Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer</td>
<td>Ideal Pictures Corp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Agency</td>
<td>Ideal Pictures Corp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rating</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The condition of the film and its age are the objectionable qualities of this film. Since this is a foreign film, another print would be impossible to secure, and the present print which is available has been spliced until there is no continuity in the music. The sound track is also very poor.
Title . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . PIANO REFLECTIONS, CONCERTO
Performer . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Alfred Koch, Pianist
Music Performed . . . . . . . . . . . . Portion of 1st movement Tschaikowsky Piano Concerto in B Flat
Approximate Length . . . . . . . . . . Three Minutes
Producer . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Pictorial Films
Rental Agency . . . . . . . . . . . . . Ideal Pictures Corp.
Visual Education, Inc.
Rating . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Fair

The length of this film is very prohibitive since only the most important themes of the Tschaikowsky Concerto can be included in three minutes; however, in some instances it may be used. The filming technique and sound are good, and Mr. Koch does a satisfactory performance of the short version of the concerto.
Title . . . . . . . . . . . . . . PIANO REFLECTIONS
         EMPEROR WALTZ
Performer . . . . . . . . . . . . Alfred Koch
Music Performed . . . . . . . . Emperor Waltz - Strauss
Approximate Length . . . . . . Three Minutes
Producer . . . . . . . . . . . . Pictorial Films
Rental Agency . . . . . . . . . Ideal Pictures Corp.
Rating . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Fair

The Piano Reflections series, designed to cover only a short period of time, has good filming technique and sound reproduction but is limited by the time allotted each film. For this reason, the music which is performed is considered unsuitable for use since it has been cut down to the most essential themes. Although it may be used to some satisfaction, the film cannot receive a high rating because of this factor.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>PIANO REFLECTIONS, POLONAISE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Performer</strong></td>
<td>Alfred Koch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Music Performed</strong></td>
<td>Military Polonaise - Chopin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approximate Length</strong></td>
<td>Three Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Producer</strong></td>
<td>Pictorial Films</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rental Agency</strong></td>
<td>Ideal Pictures Corp. Visual Education, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rating</strong></td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This film contains a short version of Chopin's famous "Military Polonaise" and, on the whole, this film is the most satisfactory of the Piano Reflections series. The most objectionable quality, that of the length of the film, holds true in this film as well as in the other films in the Piano Reflections series.
Mrs. Koch gives a satisfactory performance of this Strauss waltz, but once more the length of the film prohibits a full hearing of this composition. Other shorter selections would have been more appropriate for the Piano Reflections series since the three-minute length of the film limits the larger compositions to important themes only.
The tone poem, "Slavinka", is not recommended for school use. Its length is prohibitive and the composition and composer are not familiar enough to warrant a hearing. The composition itself is rambling with no particular continuity, and the filming technique does not reveal the standard practices of seating of the symphony orchestra.
Opera Films

Title ................................................. THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

Performers ............................................
Tito Gobbi
Anna Marcangeli
Cesare Valetti
Guilia Tomel
Angela Tucciari
Luciano Neremi
Gino Conti
Rome Opera House
Chorus and Orchestra
Angelo Questa, Conductor
Olin Downes, Narrator

Music Performed .................................... The Opera, "The Barber of Seville," - Rossini

Approximate Length ................................. Twenty Minutes

Producer .............................................. Official Films

Rental Agency ........................................ Southwest Soundfilms

Rating .................................................. Excellent

This film is a member of the Official Film Opera series and features leading singers from the La Scala of Milan and Rome opera companies. In order to present the complete opera in twenty minutes, the action is related by a narrator and the leading singers and chorus present the important and famous arias and choruses.

This film should be of great interest and use to teachers of music for it brings the finest in opera to the classroom. It is highly recommended.
The film, Faust, was made quite some time ago and is antiquated both in style and filming technique. The first act is presented, but there is much of the action and music cut from this act to shorten the film considerably. As a result, it is difficult to follow the plot. The camera wanders greatly, and the awed expressions of the spectators, many of them dressed in the styles of the twenties and painted far beyond the limit of good taste, seem to be the camera's principal subject more than the opera itself. The film is not recommended for use.
Title ........................................ LUCIA DE LAMMERMOUR

Performers ....................................
Tito Gobbi
Giacinto Prandelli
Luciano Neromi
Lilliana Rossi
Cesare Valletti
Rome Opera House
Chorus and Orchestra
Angelo Questa, Conductor

Music Performed ..............................
Principal arias and choruses from Lucia de Lammermour - Donizetti

Approximate Length ..........................
Twenty Minutes

Producer ......................................
Official Films

Rental Agency .................................
Southwest Soundfilms

Rating ...........................................
Excellent

Made by members of the famed La Scala of Milan and Rome Opera Company, the series of opera films which has been recently released by Official Films should prove very useful to the teachers of music. In order to present a complete rendition of the opera in only twenty minutes, the story is presented by a narrator and the principal arias and choruses are sung by the cast. In some instances one member does the acting while another is responsible for supplying the vocal part. This enhances the presentation since many of our greatest singers are of improper size and proportion to act adequately the part assigned them in the opera. This feature should be of great advantage for school age students of music, for the sight of one of our leading singers cast in certain
parts would certainly bring chuckles from high school age students.

The films at this time will be difficult to secure for school use because of the prohibitive rental or sales price. It is hoped that these films will soon be made available at more advantageous prices for our schools.
Title .......................... WILLIAM TELL

Performers ........................ Tito Gobbi
Anna Marcangli
Gulio Tomel
Jose Soler
Gabriella Gatti
Elio Binza
Rome Opera House
Chorus and Orchestra
Angelo Questa, Conductor
Olin Downes, Narrator

Music Performed ........................ The Opera, William Tell
Rossini

Approximate Length ........................ Twenty Minutes

Producer ........................... Official Films

Rental Agency ........................ Southwest Soundfilms

Rating .............................. Excellent

A member of the Official Film Opera series which has recently been released, this film also features singers from the Rome and La Scala of Milan opera companies. The story of the opera is told by a narrator and the important arias and choruses are sung by members of the cast. In this manner, the opera is presented in twenty minutes.

Splendid singing and acting characterizes this series of films, and William Tell is no exception to this standard which has been set forth. Other films in the series which have not been evaluated in this document are Carmen, The Marriage of Figaro, and Don Pasquale.
CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

The evaluation of motion picture films for music education has been of great interest and enlightenment to the writer, and it is believed that a representative knowledge of motion picture films available for use in the teaching of music has been presented in this work.

At the present time, the artist film category is the most promising of the film categories which are related to music education. The films which were viewed were, for the most part, of especially high caliber. Although these films are not directly intended as music education films, they serve a very definite need in the school program. In addition to the presentation of the artists of our day, they also motivate those who are studying the particular expression of music which is presented in each artist film. The great majority of the artist films follow excellent filming technique both from an interesting standpoint as well as from an educational one, and the stage presentation technique presented by those experienced in such work should be of great value to the teacher in pointing to the films...
as examples of correct stage presentation. Unfortunately, however, the artist films which are presented today deal with only a few instruments or expressions of music. These are in the main the string instruments, (violin, viola, 'cello), the piano, and the voice. It is hoped that artists who are noted for performance on other instruments will be presented in the near future in order that a greater variety of instruments may be exhibited to students.

The producers are in the process of making available many more artist films, and there are many which have not been made available by the various rental agencies but which are for sale to interested parties.

A survey of the individual film evaluations presented in this work in regard to the composer film category will reveal the general outdatedness and low quality of the composer film category. The majority of the films which are available for the presentation of famous composers are silent films which have been prepared for the sound projector by the addition of a sound track. Others which have been more recent in their production have no continuity and are poor for use in the schools. The Stephen Foster Series is the only set of composer films which can be used in our schools to advantage. There is a great need in our music history and appreciation classes particularly for modern films which present the various composers, but this need is not being met. The silent
technique films would only draw ridicule if presented to the school age student of today, since each person in the schools is well acquainted with accepted methods of filming which are presented in our commercial theaters. This would not only be detrimental to the interest of the film, but would also be of disadvantage to those who try to present music as an interesting and effective subject.

Another great need which is not being met at the present time is the demand for good elementary education films. There have been very few films produced which appeal to the youngsters in our grade schools, and films of this type could be of unestimable value to the teaching of music on this level. The mechanics of musical expression, such as the notational system and the other various symbols of our music could be presented to these children in an invaluable way by the use of the motion picture. Particularly is there great promise in animation technique.

The only film which has been designed specifically to teach the youngsters of elementary school age is the film *Rhythm is Everywhere*, produced by Teaching Films, Inc. Canada has made much more progress in the animation technique with its various folksongs, which have been set to animation, than the United States has made. There is not a greater challenge to the educational field than the production of worthwhile elementary education films in music.
Films which appeal to music classes in a general sense in many instances have been gratifying although they are limited in number and scope. Of particular value are those films which deal specifically with school age groups such as the Interlochen films and the Canadian Festival films reviewed in this document. Also those films which are made available by the various commercial companies will prove useful since they are not only interesting but are also made available at no expense to the schools. More attention, however, should be given to this field since there are great educational possibilities for the general public as well as for the music students.

The instrumental education category can in all probability boast of more films specifically designed for education than can any other category. Perhaps this is due to the series produced by the Encyclopedia Britannica Films under the direction and supervision of Peter Dykema and Howard Barlow. This particular series, some eleven years of age, has been surpassed, however, by the British film Instruments of the Orchestra, which includes high caliber music specifically designed for the film. There is still a great need in this class for good films as well as a challenge to present various types of educational films of this category. Much work could be done which would be of value to the instrumental teacher by the presentation of instrumental lessons by film for example.
It is hoped that eventually this challenge will be met by our educators as well as by our educational film producers.

The musical acoustic category is of high quality due to the close alliance with the subject of physics which has made great strides in motion picture technique for the classroom. These films may be used jointly for music and physics classes and aid the teacher greatly in explaining the various physical properties of the musical sounds.

The films which were viewed in the musical composition category were, for the most part, of considerable age and were not suited for classroom use for a great many reasons. In some instances, the sound track was very poor and disconnected and in others the scenes viewed were not of great interest since they were not made in cognizance of the best filming technique. The films, therefore, are not of sufficient quality to merit their use in the schools.

There have been some recent additions to this category, however, not available at the time of evaluation which may be of some interest and use in this field.

There has recently been released a series of films in the opera film category which should be of value to the music education field. The biggest prohibitive factor in their use is the rental cost as well as the sale prices of the films. These are very limited in content of course but should be of some value in presenting the subject of opera. Older films
are, for the most part, poor and are not in true opera form and medium. Much work is to be done in this field if effective teaching of opera work is to be presented.

Generally speaking, the extent to which the music film field has been developed has been very slight. There are very few films which actually are designed to serve as educational music films, and even though they may be of the best quality in relation to other films of music, much is lacking in genuine effectiveness and teaching qualities. The quality of those films which are advertised as music education films is disappointing and discouraging when compared with the advances made with the use of the motion picture in other educational fields.

There are perhaps several reasons for the lack of sufficient music education films and for the poor quality which those which are available exhibit; however, the principal reason for failure of the music education profession in regard to films is the lack of demand for films of good quality by music educators. The use of the motion picture as a supplementary teaching device by music educators has been extremely limited, and producers of educational films do not wish to invest their capital in films which will not be used by the profession. A demand for better films by the teachers of music in our schools is the only solution to the situation which now exists.
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Abelard Films, 1440 Broadway, New York, N. Y.
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Castle Films, Division of United World Films, Inc., 445 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.
Coronet Instructional Films, Coronet Building, Chicago, Ill.
Encyclopedia Britannica Films, Inc., 1150 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Ill.
Films of the Nations, 55 W. 45th St., New York, N. Y.
Hoffberg Productions, 620 Ninth Avenue, New York, N. Y.
Mosfilm Productions, Moscow, U. S. S. R.
National Film Board of Canada, 400 west Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.
Official Films, Inc., 25 West 45 Street, New York, N. Y.
Pictorial Films, Inc., 625 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.
Post Pictures, Inc., 115 West 45 Street, New York, N.Y.
Society for Visual Education, 100 East Ohio Street, Chicago, Illinois.
Sterling Films, Inc., 1186 Broadway, New York, N. Y.
United World Films, 445 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.
Young America Films, 18 East 41st Street, New York, N. Y.

Music Film Rental Agencies
Audio-Video Corporation, 4000 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas.
Encyclopedia Britannica Films, Inc., 1150 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Ill. Texas Branch Office: 712 N. Haskell Street, Dallas, Texas.

Ideal Pictures Corporation, 28 East 8th Street, Chicago, Ill. Texas Branch Office: 2024 Main Street, Dallas, Texas.

National Film Board of Canada, 400 West Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.

Southwest Soundfilms, 423 South Saint Paul Street, Dallas, Texas.

Visual Education, Inc., 3905 South Main Street, Houston, Texas. Texas Branch Offices: 12th at Lamar, Austin, Texas, and 2010 North Field, Dallas, Texas.

Visual Instruction Bureau, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas.