Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci

Katedra hudební výchovy PdF UP v Olomouci
srdečně zve všechny zájemce na přednášku

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RECREATING „SPECIAL“ SCORES AND „SPECIAL“ SILENT FILM PERFORMANCES: PALIMPSESTS AND PARTIALLY PRESERVED PROLOGUES

The lecture will consider the challenges facing anyone who seeks to restore ‘special music’ for silent films. Rather than leaving the music to the particular cinema showing the film, sometimes film companies or distributors commissioned ’special music’ for their ’special films’ (e.g. historical, literary, or long epics). Most of the restorations available on DVD fall into this category. However, such restorations create real problems for the restorer owing first to the highly ephemeral status of silent film itself (films were routinely re-edited during runs, and also routinely re-edited at individual cinemas), and second to the fact that music might have been altered during a run. Bringing together two temporal media in a live situation is also fraught. Moreover, silent film was always a performance, and arguably, the object of interest for a musicologist should be ‘the programme’, not an individual film. Silent films were typically shown within mixed programmes involving various live musical and dramatic elements. In this lecture I will draw on a range of historical sources to discuss all of these considerations, and use as an example my own work the recreation of the ‘special music’ and framing musical elements for *The Epic of Everest* (1924).

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