

Movie Rationales for Choral Classes

THE SOUND OF MUSIC rated G – A tuneful, heartwarming story, it is based on the real life story of the Von Trapp Family singers, one of the world's best-known concert groups in the era immediately preceding World War II. Julie Andrews plays the role of Maria, the tomboyish postulant at an Austrian abbey who becomes a governess in the home of a widowed naval captain with seven children, and brings a new love of life and music into the home.

Release date: April 1, 1965 (USA)

Director: Robert Wise

Adapted from: The Sound of Music

Story by: Maria von Trapp, Russel Crouse, Howard Lindsay

Maria comes to love the children and uses music to bridge the relationship gap between the children and their father. This film is useful in the choir curriculum to illustrate the use of music in film. This also can be used across curriculum to connect with history/social studies.

NEWSIES rated PG– In this musical, homeless New York City newsboy Jack "Cowboy" Kelly (Christian Bale) befriends two newcomers to his trade, brothers David (David Moscow) and Les Jacobs (Luke Edwards). When publisher Joseph Pulitzer (Robert Duvall) sets new rules that make it harder for the young newspaper salesmen to make a buck, the boys go on strike. Bryan Denton (Bill Pullman), a journalist who's sympathetic to their plight, gives them some tips in public relations, as the newsboys' battle grips the city.

Director: Kenny Ortega

Music composed by: Alan Menken

Screenplay: Bob Tzudiker, Noni White

This film is useful in the choir curriculum to illustrate the use of music in film and to make connections with American History.

WHAT'S IN YOUR BACKPACK: no rating – In this laugh-out-loud presentation, author and motivational speaker John Bytheway will tell you why to dump the junk and how to fill your backpack with the things you really need – a capacity to love, a desire to serve, and the energy to make a difference in someone else's life.

This DVD is useful in the choir curriculum to help build a sense of community and help students understand their personal value in an ensemble. It is used to help students be aware that they can choose to contribute in a positive way.