The Role of Music in Film Adaptations of Jane Austen’s Works

This presentation will trace how film makers from the 1930s to the present have employed music in their depictions of Austen’s works. Topics include: the depiction of music as performed by the characters, background or incidental music, the differences between the use of historical music from Austen’s time and newly composed film scores, & how the approaches of these film makers relates to or differs from Austen's own approach to music in her writings.

Presented by Dr. John Prescott (Ph.D. U. C. Berkeley), expert on Handel, who has taught highly popular music courses at U. C. Berkeley & the Crowden School (Berkeley, CA), and was the musicologist for the San Francisco Elderhostel Arts and Humanities Program.

'I myself have read hundreds & hundreds': Jane Austen & the Novels of the Minerva Press

This illustrated talk will explore the popular fiction of Jane Austen's day, in the context of Austen's own reading habits & her literary references, beginning with the infamous "Horrid Novels" of Isabella Thorpe in Northanger Abbey. It will focus on the Minerva Press, the publisher of (hundreds & hundreds) of popular novels between 1790 & 1820, considering, for instance, how Austen's Catherine Morland compares to the gothic heroines of the original Minerva novels, & showing how Austen's use of parody ties her novels into a larger group of fictional works by women authors.

Presented by Hannah J. Doherty, a PhD candidate (English, Stanford University), where she holds a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship. Her research concentrates on the popular fiction of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. She is a contributor to the Pickering & Chatto series Romantic Women Writers Reviewed; her article on Robert Bage is forthcoming in The Eighteenth-Century Novel.

Telling Secrets in Sense & Sensibility

Sense & Sensibility is filled with secrets revealed, whether confessed or merely overheard. This talk will address the many secrets in S&S, from Brandon's story of the first Eliza, to the true identity of Lucy's husband. Many secrets are revealed as characters confess their pasts to Elinor, who then repackages their stories for others. These confession scenes not only reveal back-stories, but also dramatize the interplay of voices that characterizes Austen's development of free indirect discourse. Looking at key scenes of telling and retelling secrets, this talk will argue that such scenes dramatize the development of Austen's free indirect discourse, with its intimate overlap of confessor and confessant, narrator and character.

Presented by Becky Richardson (English, Stanford) whose dissertation is titled Narrative Ambition: Victorian Self-Help and Competition. Her interests include Austen, Dickens, Thackeray, &Trollope. Her work is forthcoming in Dickens Studies Annual & ELH.