

# Film Musings



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For nearly twenty years, scholar and critic Royal S. Brown contributed a regular

column, "Film Musings," to Fanfare magazine. This single volume assembles the material from these columns and presents Brown's reviews of significant recordings of movie scores. Although many of the reviews are of "original soundtrack recordings" for films released during the column's run, a number of the reviews also cover reissues of earlier recordings, as well as newly recorded versions of "classic" scores. In certain instances, Brown was even able to include in his column interviews with composers such as David Raksin (Laura) and Howard Shore (The Silence of the Lambs) concerning new recordings of their music. An expert on film and film music, Brown frequently offers controversial perspectives not just on the music but also on the film for which the music was composed, and in many cases, he stresses the interactions between the cinematic action and the score, an aspect generally ignored by most film-music critics. His perceptions are presented in an accessible style that will lead even readers who are new to the subject to discover many of the treasures of what once was a neglected art. Not intended as a guide for collectors-although many of the recordings discussed are still available-but rather to open new horizons in a unique art form, this is a collection that will appeal to anyone who is interested in both film and film music.

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