



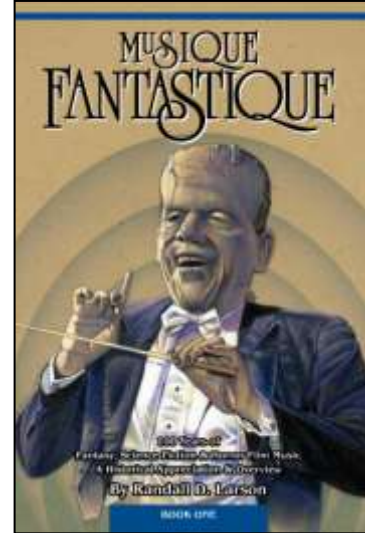
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Creature Features Publishes Second Edition of “Musique Fantastique”

Randall D. Larson’s expansive new edition wholly rewritten and expanded in Four-Volume Collection

Book One released on September 1, 2012

Books Two-Four forthcoming for 2013



(Los Angeles, CA) August 15, 2012: Creature Features announces the publication of a wholly rewritten, revised, and expanded 2nd Edition of *Musique Fantastique: 100 Years of Fantasy, Science Fiction & Horror Film Music* by noted film music writer, Randall D. Larson. The first (of four) separate books that make up the book series will be released in September as a limited edition trade paperback and an e-book, with the succeeding three books to appear shortly.

When it was published in 1985 by Scarecrow Press, Randall D. Larson’s *Musique Fantastique: A Survey of Film Music in the Fantastic Cinema* was the first book-length analytical commentary of these genres of film music.

I grew up on these films, and yet still found revealing insights on every page about my favorite composers and scores. Best of all, Larson is careful not to let the detail overwhelm the reader -- "Musique Fantastique" is a brisk and fun read. There's something here for everyone, from the casual fan, to aspiring musicians, to film buffs, to veteran composers. You'll never watch (or listen to) your favorite genre films the same way again!
- Bear McCreary, composer, *Battlestar Galactica*, *The Walking Dead*

Out of print, elusive, and sought after for many years, *Musique Fantastique* has been regarded as a unique and important reference work for students and enthusiasts of both film music and fantastic films. The first extensive analysis of music in science fiction, fantasy, and horror *films*, Larson’s exhaustive commentary covered the use and techniques of music in these genre films from the silent era and the groundbreaking Golden Age of the ’30s and ’40s through the rise of electronics and the resurgence of symphonic film music in the late ’70s and early ’80s. Taking the approach that film music has an especially unique responsibility in these genre films and has achieved significant advances in musical style and form in these genres, Larson examined in detail how music has been used to intensify the filmgoing experience in these types of movies.

“Creature Features is pleased to announce the publication of *Musique Fantastique, 2nd Edition*, said publisher Taylor White. “Intricately detailed and wide-ranging in its scope, Randall has significantly expanded his in-depth coverage of the subject, from the silent era through the summer blockbusters of 2012.” Featuring a new introduction by film composer Christopher Young, *Musique Fantastique, 2nd Edition*, is a massive, four-book comprehensive examination of music for fantasy, sci-fi, and horror films and television worldwide.

“Music for science fiction, fantasy, and horror films has always been a particularly unique area of film scoring,” said Larson. “Just as fantasy has allowed the minds of writers and filmmakers to flow into new and unexplored regions, so has it allowed the imaginations of film composers to create much of the finest music composed for motion pictures.”

This book is an amazing feat! To condense the naturally elusive realm of the history of genre film scoring into an intelligible, tangible overview not only is an invaluable tool for composers, but sheds light on the culture of society as a whole. Music is one of the best mirrors of the emotional state of the times in which it was produced and this book gives an insight into an area that has long been overlooked. This book then, serves both as a specific resource manual for those interested in researching a favorite score or composer, as well as a colorful linear narrative, the likes of which I have not seen before.
- Marco Beltrami, composer, *Scream (series)*, *Terminator 3*

The original 1985 edition has been thoroughly rewritten to include new research, interviews, and access to films, scores, and reference data not available when the first book was written. “The explosion in genre product in cinema and television over the last two decades has

demanding an extension of my original discussion to see where film music in these genres has gone since 1985,” Larson said. “I’ve also got a much better opportunity to write about these films, having written about film music for more than a quarter century. I’m not a musicologist and you won’t find a lot of discussion about musical theory and technique in *Musique Fantastique II*. What you will find is analysis about music’s dramatic function and purpose and what has been and remains unique about music for sci-fi, fantasy, and horror films. The 2nd Edition gives me an opportunity to revisit the old movies and analyze new ones, from the biggest Hollywood blockbusters to the cheesiest low-budget independent films from the farthest corners of the world, exploring what film music does to enhance these imaginative genres, and to get inside the heads of these music makers and discern their thoughts and perceptions.”

Musique Fantastique, Second Edition
100 Years of Fantasy, Science Fiction & Horror Film Music
A Historical Appreciation & Overview
By Randall D. Larson

**One Book – Four Volumes – Encyclopedic Commentary - Essential
Reading**

“I would like to thank Randall on behalf of the entire music community for his years of commitment to promoting film music and the film composers that write it. Most importantly, he has always done it entirely out of true love of music and what it can do in these kinds of films. It’s been this passion for genre music that prompted [this] analysis and commentary.”

- from the Introduction by Christopher Young.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Randall D. Larson was the editor and publisher of *CinemaScore: The Film Music Journal* from 1981 to 1987, and for many years thereafter senior editor and reviewer for *Soundtrack Magazine*, until its demise in 2002, “The Score” columnist for *Cinefantastique* magazine, and a prolific writer in fields of music, fantasy literature, cinema, and other fields of interest. The original *Musique Fantastique* was his first book, published in 1985, and was followed by *Music from the House of Hammer*, *Film Music Around the World*, several books about author Robert Bloch, and *Films Into Books*, the first book-length study of film novelizations and movie tie-in books. Larson currently writes the Soundtrax film music column for buysoundtrax.com and is the author of more than 100 liner note commentaries for specialty soundtrack albums. He currently resides in Eureka, California.

Musique Fantastique 2nd Edition, Book One, sells for \$29.95 (trade paperback – limited edition of 500 copies) or \$ 14.97 (e-book, forthcoming).

To order **Musique Fantastique 2nd Edition, Book One**, see:
<http://www.creaturefeatures.com/products/books/musique-fantastique/>

The **Musique Fantastique Web Site** offers additional background information about the book, including an author’s commentary, behind-the-scenes report, and additional data on music in science fiction, fantasy, and horror movies around the globe. See: www.musiquefantastique.com

A **Facebook** page has been created for updates, news, networking, and other details about the publication of the 2nd Edition at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Musique-Fantastique-II/162142597165759>

A limited number of the books are available for promotional review in either the paperback edition or a special promotional, watermarked PDF soft copy.
Contact: Randall D. Larson at larsonrdl@gmail.com

For more information and ordering details, see the publisher’s web site at:
www.creaturefeatures.com

Musique Fantastique, Second Edition
100 Years of Fantasy, Science Fiction & Horror Film Music
A Historical Appreciation & Overview
By Randall D. Larson

Introduction by Christopher Young
Cover Paintings by Bill Nelson

Musique Fantastique, Second Edition is being published in four sequential volumes:

Book 1: Beginnings And The First Golden Age (1900-1959)

- The Sound of the Silents
- The Universal Monster Music Factory
- Fantasies of the '30s & '40s
- Sci-Fi Films of the '50s
- Japanese Giant Invasions: Monster Music in the Land of the Rising Sun, 1954-1985
- Amazing Stories from the Twilight Zone: Fantasy & Sci-fi Music for Television, Part 1:
- Classical Music in Fantastic Film Scores
- Individual Chapters on: Miklós Rózsa, Roy Webb, Dimitri Tiomkin

Book 2: Post Classical Cinema and Music Beyond Hollywood (The 1960s)

- The Mysterious Worlds of Bernard Herrmann
- Baxter, Corman, & Company: Sci Fi, Horror & Fantasy Music of the 60's
- Horrors from Hammer and Others: British Film Music of the '60s and '70s
- Aztec Mummies & Fighting Luchadores: Monster Music in Mexico, South America, & the Philippines
- European Stylisms – From Anton Garcia Abril to Zdeněk Liška
- Italian Film Music Innovations: From Sword & Sandal to Grue & Giallo
- Music for Animated Science Fiction & Fantasy

Book 3: The Symphonic Resurgence and the Rise of the Machines (1970-1989)

- The Versatility of Jerry Goldsmith
- The Rise of Electronic Film Music
- John Williams and the Resurgence of the Symphonic Score
- Fantastic Film Music in the 70s and 80s
- The Creepy Fragrances of J-Horror: And Other Haunted Fantasies from the Orient
- Mad Max, Raging Boars & Black Sheep: The Dissonance Down Under
- Bollywood Beats & Lollywood Lyrics: Horror Music from India and Pakistan
- The Music is Out There: Television Music of the 90s and Beyond

Book 4: The Turning of a New Millennium (1990-2010)

- Fantasy and Fusion: The Hybrid Horror & Fantasy Music of the 1990s Part 1
- Sci-Fi, Horror, & Synthesis: The Hybrid Horror & Fantasy Music of the 1990s – Part 2
- New Styles for the Musical Millennium: The Evolving Dynamics of Fantastic Film Music
- New Styles for the Musical Millennium: Part 2: Continuing Masters
- Embracing The World Beat: New Composers of the New Millennium
- The Next Generation: New Composers of the New Millennium – Part 2

Each volume is graced with a specially-designed cover painting by internationally recognized illustrator Bill Nelson, and includes the classic frontispiece drawn by renowned fantasy artist Allen Koszowski.

www.musiquefantastique.com

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