


# The Oxford Handbook of Film Music Studies (Oxford Handbooks)

*By David Neumeyer*

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**The Oxford Handbook of Film Music Studies (Oxford Handbooks)** By David Neumeyer

Music has been an integral part of film exhibition from its beginnings in the late nineteenth century. With the arrival of sound film in the late 1920s, music became part of a complex multimedia text. Although industry, fan-oriented, and scholarly literatures on film music have existed from early on, and music was frequently among the topics discussed and disputed, only in the past thirty years has sustained scholarly attention gone to music in visual media, beginning with the feature film. *The Oxford Handbook of Film Music Studies* charts that interdisciplinary activity in its primary areas of inquiry: history, genre and medium, analysis and criticism, and interpretation.

The handbook provides an overview to the field on a large scale. Chapters in Part I range from the relations of music and the soundtrack to opera and film, textual representation of film sound, and film music as studied by cognitive scientists. Part II addresses genre and medium with chapters focusing on cartoons and animated films, the film musical, music in arcade and early video games, and the interplay of film, music, and recording over the past half century. The chapters in Part III offer case studies in interpretation along with extended critical surveys of theoretical models of gender, sexuality, and subjectivity as they impinge on music and sound. The three chapters on analysis in Part IV are diverse: one systematically models harmonies used in recent films, a second looks at issues of music and film temporality, and a third focuses on television. Chapters on history (Part V) cover topics including musical antecedents in nineteenth-century theater, the complex issues in sychronization of music in performance of early (silent) films, international practices in early film exhibition, and the symphony orchestra in film.

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**The Oxford Handbook of Film Music Studies (Oxford Handbooks) By David Neumeyer Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #3031170 in Books
- Published on: 2013-12-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.20" h x 2.20" w x 9.80" l, 3.44 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 704 pages

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Review

"[O]ffers stimulating questions and music analyses." --*CHOICE*

"Taken as a whole, the book lives up to the expectations of the Oxford Handbook Series-it takes a very broad and interdisciplinary approach to evaluating the current state of the field...This volume is a must read for any scholar pursuing the serious study of music in film and other audiovisual media, and it will be of particular value to graduate students interested in film music studies."--*Journal of the Society for American Music*

"It is written to be easily understood by film and music students alike, as well as those who are not using this book in a classroom setting but are simply interested in the subject...The book does well in covering all sides of the arguments it presents, thoroughly explaining causes and effects of problems and important historical happenings, and organizes the author's ideas in a way that helps the reader feel more connected to the material...For those studying film, music, or film music, *The Oxford Handbook of Film Music Studies* is essential and, if you are an aspiring film composer, this is a book you absolutely cannot miss"--*Film Matters*

About the Author

**David Neumeyer** is Marlene and Morton Meyerson Professor in Music and Professor of Music Theory in the School of Music, The University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of several books including, most recently, a textbook with James Buhler and Rob Deemer entitled *Hearing the Movies* (2010).

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