



Announces:



THE MECHANIC

Composed and Conducted by **JERRY FIELDING**
Intrada Special Collection Volume ISC 55

Jerry Fielding's score to *The Mechanic* is probably one of his greatest achievements. It was not significantly different from his other dissonant, dark work from that same period, but the score and the film were at such unity that *The Mechanic* could not and would not be the same film without Fielding's score. *The Mechanic* provided Fielding a canvas to do something new and exciting, particularly the film's 16-minute opening assassination sequence that plays without dialog and relies heavily on the music to bring the drama and personality to life.

The score to *The Mechanic* is symphonic, but Fielding pushed the envelope of musical modernism to envelop the story in disturbing, dissonant, eerie clusters and Fielding's characteristic turn of phrase. This modernism conveys an exacting sense of violence and darkness to the film's drama in which a pair of killers (played by Charles Bronson and Jan-Michael Vincent) scheme to assassinate each other as they partner against a common target. But the score goes farther, as Fielding ventures deeper into his characterization of Bronson's Bishop, probing the man's psychology – this is no lowbrow killer, but a refined gentleman who plots his assassinations in a bathrobe while listening to Beethoven and surrounded by art. For the film's set piece action sequences, Fielding wrote furious, busy action music that scores the very idea of the chases, rather than the chases themselves.

A suite of music from *The Mechanic* was released on LP by Tony Thomas in the 1970s and later issued on a promotional CD by Bay Cities in 1990. This CD marks the premiere release of the complete score, remixed and remastered from first generation master tapes saved from the dumpster by James Fitzpatrick when CTS was shutting down. The score was recorded in England and these elements provide a new and complete clarity to one of Fielding's masterpieces in magnificent stereo.

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