



Announces:



LITTLE MONSTERS

Composed and Conducted by **DAVID NEWMAN**
Intrada Special Collection Volume ISC 82

In the 1989 film *Little Monsters*, Fred Savage (*The Wonder Years*) stars as Brian Stevenson, a kid who reluctantly moves to the suburbs with his feuding parents Holly and Glen (Margaret Whitton and *Wonder Years*' narrator Daniel Stern) and his younger brother Eric (Savage's real-life sibling Ben). But inexplicable mischief starts right away and Eric blames a monster that emerges from under his bed. Challenged by the adults' disbelief, Brian decides to spend a night alone in Eric's bedroom. Ingeniously armed with a booby-trapped bed and a flashlight, Brian ends up revealing the culprit as Maurice (Howie Mandel), an 11-year-old boogeyman who's been "wreaking hell on an entire nation of kids" for 200 years.

While *Little Monsters* clearly features frenetic humor, it also has an imaginative style all its own, with unexpected scenes of real menace and poignancy. It was the latter that David Newman's music emphasizes since Maurice makes the mistake, as he puts it, of getting emotionally involved with his victim. In fact, throughout the scoring the director continually reminded Newman to emphasize the bond between Maurice and Brian. The director chose a leisurely and restrained tone for the opening of the movie, allowing Newman to give the music plenty "air" to breathe.

As Newman describes his score: "I was so partial to 'golden era' string scores like Elmer Bernstein's *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Jerry Goldsmith's *A Patch of Blue*. So there's a lot of oboe in *Little Monsters*, which I doubled with a flute and strings. Nobody makes movies like *Little Monsters* anymore," Newman says. "It had a lot of intellectual things that didn't play for the audience expecting a typical 'kid's movie.' And that made it a tricky musical tightrope to walk, to change emotions on a dime so the music could be funny, light and dark at the same time. And of all the movies I did at the time, *Little Monsters* is probably the weirdest and most interesting."

Intrada presents the complete score from the original stereo session elements on this premiere limited release in the Intrada Special Collection and is limited to 1000 copies.

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