



Announces:



THE BLACK BIRD

Composed and Conducted by **JERRY FIELDING**
Intrada Special Collection Volume ISC 136

For the 1975 Columbia Pictures noir parody *The Black Bird*, Fielding decided to score the film largely as a drama, feeling that the comic elements would take care of themselves. The movie's "period" is, like the film itself, all over the map in terms of tone and style. For Fielding aficionados, however, there is plenty of musical fun on this CD. The composer's jazzy, string-based riff on the "Main Title" is very much in sync with his work of this vintage. The mid-1970s saw him gradually abandon some of his earlier tropes and mannerisms in favor of a style that would increasingly feature electronics. Like many composers of the time, he felt that synthesizers would begin to play a much greater part in film music and he began to accommodate them accordingly. Discreetly at first, and here mostly in the opening and closing titles, he experimented gingerly. A busy motif, in counterpoint to the orchestral forces, makes its presence felt. Interestingly, quite a bit of groundwork for Fielding's later work (including his superb music for *The Big Sleep*) would be laid here first.

The Black Bird, a comedy-spoof of the whole noir genre, plays upon the *Maltese Falcon*, with the leading character would be Sam Spade's son, Junior (George Segal), who had inherited his father's detective business including cranky Lee Patrick (the secretary from the original). It is 1975, although strangely Junior is dressed as if it is the 1930s, as are many of the ne'er-do-wells he encounters. Finding the falcon, aka the black bird, Junior deposits it in the trash, and later is surprised to learn of its value, demonstrated by the parade of criminals, killers, femme fatales, etc., who are now on his tail.

This release is limited to 1500 units.

Intrada Special Collection Volume ISC 136
Released July 6, 2010