



Announces:



FUNERAL HOME

Composed and Conducted by **JERRY FIELDING**

Intrada Special Collection Volume ISC 186

Intrada continues its focus on the music of Jerry Fielding with a release of his final film score, the 1980-horror film *Funeral Home*. Fielding chose to shy away from shrieking stings and explosive “fright” moments and, in fact, his score is rather restrained. Maybe because he had never scored a “conventional” horror picture before, the composer elected to return to the rural “dread” motifs from *Straw Dogs* (1971), as well as some of the atmospheric ideas from *The Nightcomers* (1971). Students of Fielding will also note the use of many of his familiar staples, skillfully blended with a new theme and interesting variations.

The master elements for this fascinatingly complex and truly frightening score were long thought to be lost. But through a series of events unfolding over a lengthy period of time, the 24-track masters were almost literally unearthed from a drive-in theater in Ontario, Canada. Fielding was a master at using various solo colors from his woodwinds, clusters of tight harmonies in his brass, tiny metallic hits from the triangle, sharp rolls in the snare drums, florid harp passages, challenging figures for strings, and brittle melodic ideas. And thanks to the pristine condition of the master elements, it's all here in crystal clarity and featuring many cues that were dropped from the film.

The film itself tells the story of a former funeral parlor that has now been turned into a guesthouse for weary travelers, overseen by old Maude Chalmers (Kay Hawtry), a cheerful, frumpish battle axe who welcomes her visitors with home-cooked aplomb. Into this house of foreboding comes Maude's granddaughter, Heather (Lesleh Donaldson), who quickly begins to suspect that all might not be quite right. She wonders how come the other guests seem to disappear into the night without explanation and why old Grandma is heard upstairs conversing with a man who may or may not be her husband, who supposedly disappeared.

Intrada Special Collection Volume ISC 186

Released October 18, 2011