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The Music Library: Revised And Expanded Edition



Synopsis

The first edition of *The Music Library*, published in 2005 and now out of print, brought together the designs of more than 325 record sleeves and relevant information about these rare and elusive albums. Quickly becoming known as the music library "bible," *The Music Library* represented a valuable reference and also sparked a resurgence of interest in the subject over the last ten years, with many new library labels and recordings coming to light. Library music—also known as source or mood music—was made for use in film, TV, advertising and radio. It was given to TV channels and producers who needed cheap, signature music for animations, advertisements and television programs. Never commercially available for sale to the public, this music was pressed from the 1950s onwards in limited quantities, and then sent directly for use in production houses and radio stations. These LPs were intended for purpose and function, not for pop charts, and as a result they look and sound like nothing else. Without the usual music industry constraints, the record sleeve designers had almost complete freedom of expression, with unprecedented results. This new and expanded edition of *The Music Library* contains twice the content of the original book, featuring 625 rare sleeves from 230 music library companies of the 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s. The amazing cover designs of over 100 newly discovered library albums are beautifully reproduced (alongside all the sleeves contained in the first book) and accompanied by exhaustive, updated captions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Aficionado and avid collector Jonny Trunk reveals the many and varied pleasures of Library Music. (Grafik) Aside from information on hundreds of library music labels, much of the book is given over to reproductions of over 600 sleeves, which makes for a wide-ranging survey of album design over the decades. (The Wire)

I've been collecting phonograph records for over 50 years. I have 78rpm shellac discs, vinyl 45s, and vinyl albums and even a few cassettes. Yes, I have CDs too. I probably had 8-track tapes back in the 1960s as well. I have spent MANY hours in used record stores but I have NEVER actually come across or seen a record or album until I discovered this book. There's a whole new world of collecting out there! Simply stated Library Music is known as source or mood music. It's not unlike the Muzak that you hear in elevators. Music that doesn't sound familiar, yet it does sound familiar. This type of music is composed and recorded for TV commercials as well as background music in low budget films (including many porn films) and on TV. They are produced in small quantities (probably why I've never seen one) and they use cover art that is, frankly, mostly boring. There may be some red and white stripes and the words (in large letters) "High Speed JAZZ" on the cover, or a drawing of a Butterfly and nothing else. And many just came in plain sleeves with the record label showing through. Record Collector Jonny Trunk published a book with about 300 covers in 2005. This new volume contains twice as many as that volume = 625 in all. They come from primarily from Trunk's collection and that of another two dozen collectors. The color images fill the 248 page coffee table book, which weighs in at 3 1/2 pounds! They are arranged alphabetically by label name and there is a short paragraph about each label. No dates are provided so you can't tell if a particular cover is from the 1960s, 1970s or 1980s (the period in which these records were made. Trunk acknowledges in his 2 page introduction that there probably should be a CD included with samples of the music for those (like me) that are not familiar with it. He chose not to include one and, instead of creating a web site where he could post samples, he recommends that readers "Google the album titles and they will probably find them on the internet". So consider this an "art book of graphic design not a "sound book with audio references. It's fun to look through once, but I'm sure that it will appear much more to a person who actually collects these

Library Music recordings. I hope you found this review both informative and helpful. Steve Ramm

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