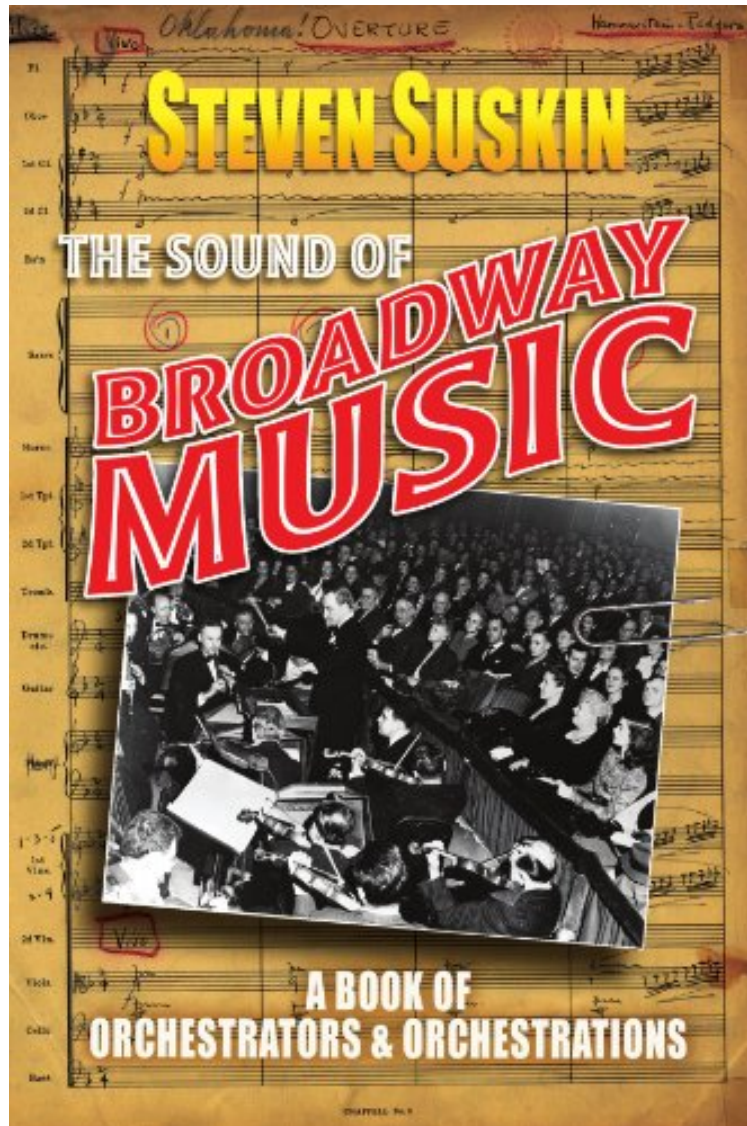


(Mobile book) The Sound of Broadway Music: A Book of Orchestrators and Orchestration

The Sound of Broadway Music: A Book of Orchestrators and Orchestration

Steven Suskin

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Steven Suskin : The Sound of Broadway Music: A Book of Orchestrators and Orchestration before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sound of Broadway Music: A Book of Orchestrators and Orchestration:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Wonderful Book on the Broadway Musical Theater By T.

Lassagne "The Sound of Broadway Music" is a major contribution to the history of the American musical theater. It is well researched, well written, well organized, and well edited. The index is very comprehensive, with boldface guides to important entries. Steven Suskin is the ideal author for such a book. He has written several fine books on the Broadway musical theater and has many contacts in the theater. He did an enormous amount of research for this book, locating scores and parts, determining who wrote what, and interviewing the few remaining people who were part of the era. The book covers the orchestrators who were active in the "golden age" of the musical (1943-1964) and follows their careers through 2002. The orchestrators who provided the "Broadway sound" are often taken for granted by the public and need to be recognized for their contributions to the theater. Suskin has done this admirably. The book starts with a brief description of the orchestrator's role. That is followed by sketches of twelve major orchestrators (a dozen shows or more), their "ghosts" and helpers, and other members of the music department. A chapter on the art of orchestration reviews the whole process of orchestrating a show. The major part of the book (about half) is an alphabetical listing of shows, crediting the orchestrators and others who assisted. It includes other show information such as the opening date and number of performances. At the back of the book are a chronology of shows, acknowledgements, sources, and a bibliography, followed by the index mentioned above. If you have any interest in the golden age of Broadway musicals, this is a wonderful book to have on your shelf. You will find a lot in it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. wonderful work! By Beenthere This is a book I never expected to be written. It shows how the music of Broadway was crafted by folks (orchestrators) who never share the glory of stardom and are basically forgotten as soon as a show is in place. They do much of their work while others sleep, having received information about the job at the last minute, and the product generated by that frantic effort often lives on for years. I know - I'm one of them. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The other side of showbiz By SamuelCottell found this book to be lacking in technical detail that may have strengthened some of the arguments. While it does state that it is a book that anyone can read I would have liked to have seen some more score samples that highlighted the rather vague descriptions of particular musical episodes that are scattered throughout the book. I think this book has tried to cover too much content and as such the argument of ideas is somewhat thin in places. It is a good starting place for further research on arrangers within the Broadway school though and sets up some good ideas as to the importance of the arranger in the musical and how they went about their work.

Broadway's top orchestrators - Robert Russell Bennett, Don Walker, Philip J. Lang, Jonathan Tunick - are names well known to musical theatre fans, but few people understand precisely what the orchestrator does. The Sound of Broadway Music is the first book ever written about these unsung stars of the Broadway musical whose work is so vital to each show's success. The book examines the careers of Broadway's major orchestrators and follows the song as it travels from the composer's piano to the orchestra pit. Steven Suskin has meticulously tracked down thousands of original orchestral scores, piecing together enigmatic notes and notations with long-forgotten documents and current interviews with dozens of composers, producers, conductors and arrangers. The information is separated into three main parts: a biographical section which gives a sense of the life and world of twelve major theatre orchestrators, as well as incorporating briefer sections on another thirty arrangers and conductors; a lively discussion of the art of orchestration, written for musical theatre enthusiasts (including those who do not read music); a biographical section which gives a sense of the life and world of twelve major theatre orchestrators, as well as incorporating briefer sections on another thirty arrangers and conductors; and an impressive show-by-show listing of more than seven hundred musicals, in many cases including a song-by-song listing of precisely who orchestrated what along with relevant comments from people involved with the productions. Stocked with intriguing facts and juicy anecdotes, many of which have never before appeared in print, The Sound of Broadway Music brings fascinating and often surprising new insight into the world of musical theatre.

"An invaluable book." - Terry Teachout, The Wall Street Journal "Entertaining and meticulously researched. The Sound of Broadway Music is chock full of intriguing facts and juicy anecdotes and offers new insight into the world of musical theatre." - Judy Samelson, Playbill "One of the most magnificent books our favorite art form has ever had" -- Peter Filichia, Theatermania.com "The problem most orchestrators face: No one understands what they do, how they do it, or even who is doing it.. The Sound of Broadway Music will forever change that for lovers of musical theatre. This is probably the most valuable theatre book ever written about a subject you never considered precious -- Matthew Murray, Broadwaystars.com "Steven Suskin's six hundred and fifty pages of information substantiating the contribution of orchestrators to the music of Broadway is nothing less than jaw-dropping. Their working relationship with the composers of Broadway scores and directors of Broadway shows is fascinating in its detail. There can be no comparable feat of research more meticulous than this valuable addition to the history of American musical theater." -- Hal Prince, director "Backstage has been the unwarranted space where the wondrous talent of orchestrators remained until now. Steven Suskin has meticulously opened the curtain so that this array of musical magicians can finally take their long overdue bow. May this composer be among the first to shout, 'Bravo!'" -- Jerry Bock, composer "Fans as well as musical theatre scholars will be forever indebted to Steven Suskin for this book. It's fascinating, entertaining and an

essential addition to the literature of American musical theatre."--Michael Feinstein, composer, performer "Suskin does an absolutely masterful job of covering a fascinating but obscure, often arcane and frequently technical subject in a manner that makes it not only understandable but thoroughly fascinating to novice and expert alike. A valuable reference work as well as a history and appreciation of a neglected art."--Potomac Stages "When we speak of the historians who write about theater, no we can put Steven Suskin in the circle of the truly great ones. The Sound of Broadway Music will make us have a greater appreciation every time we listen to a Golden Age of Broadway original cast album."--TheaterMania "Invaluable...intriguing and well told."--The Sondheim "Suskin does an absolutely masterful job of covering a fascinating but obscure, often arcane and frequently technical subject in a manner that makes it not only understandable but throughly fascinating to novice and expert alike." --DC Theatre Scene "Offers a detailed appreciation of such technically skilled craftsmen as Hans Spialek...Suskin has produced a charming tribute to such vital, hitherto-forgotten talents as Hershy Kay, Irwin Kostal and Sid Ramin." --Newark Star-Ledger "[An] engaging narrative." --Fontes Artis Musicae About the Author Steven Suskin is the author of numerous books on the Broadway musical, including Show Tunes (OUP, fourth edition released March 2010), Second Act Trouble (Applause, 2006), and the Opening Night on Broadway series. He has written hundreds of columns and reviews for Playbill, Variety and other publications.