

HEAR HERE

## SCORING

**T**HOUGH HOLLYWOOD'S dynasties—the Barrymores, the Hustons—are legendary, the composing Newmans are relatively unknown. From the great Alfred Newman and his brothers Lionel and Emil to his sons Thomas and David and his nephew Randy, the impact of this musical family on movie history has been enormous. And it continues unabated—Thomas provided a lovely score for *Scent of a Woman*, and David did the honors for *Hoffa*. Sadly, much of the older generation's work isn't widely available (and virtually anything you see with Alfred Newman's name on it is worth a listen). Here's a choice selection of Newman music on CD.

● **The Rapture** (Polydor). This marvelous Thomas Newman score combines a dark, passionate style with great songs by Irma Thomas, Meredith Monk, and others. A classic. While you're at it, check out Thomas's work on *The Player*, *Des-*

*perately Seeking Susan* (both on Varèse Sarabande), and whatever he does next.

● **Heathers** (Varèse Sarabande). A witty, synthesized score that demonstrates David

Randy Newman, whose best pop albums have a cinematic feel. In this baseball fable, his music is nostalgic and gripping at the same time—a nice trick.

● **The Sound and the Fury** (Varèse Sarabande). This fine effort by Alex North provides Lionel Newman a chance to shine as conductor.

● **The Robe** (Varèse Sara-

PHOTOFEST



THE HOUSE OF NEWMAN: LIONEL (LEFT) AND RANDY.

Newman's flair for black comedy. Usually working in an orchestral style, David came into his own through collaborations with director Danny DeVito (on *Throw Momma From the Train*, *The War of the Roses*, and now *Hoffa*).

● **The Natural** (Warner Bros.). A beautiful, oft-copied work by

bande). Biblical epics tend to date rather quickly, but this score is one of the better efforts, and one of the few Alfred Newman albums that's easy to find. Get it while you're waiting for *The Song of Bernadette*, *How Green Was My Valley*, and countless others.

MICHAEL GILTZ