

SCORING

ANIMATION INSPIRES THE best and worst in film scoring. The music is often dismissed as little more than the simple-minded mimicry of what's happening onscreen—and it sometimes is. On the other hand, animated movies have had musical scores worthy of Broadway and sophisticated soundtracks in the classic Hollywood tradition. Here's a sampling.

• **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs** (Walt Disney). The Disney standard in almost every way—what *Beauty and the Beast* et al. are measured against. Lighthearted tunes (“Heigh-Ho”) and songs of gentle yearning (“Some Day My Prince Will Come”) combine with rarely matched ease. A delight.

• **The Jungle Book** (Walt Disney). This buoyant score of unflagging wit features “The Bare Necessi-

ties,” “I Wan’na Be Like You,” and a handful of others equally good.

• **Stay Awake** (A&M). A quirky, memorable Disney tribute album, on which contemporary artists perform 22 tunes from the studio’s films in a wide range of styles (e.g., Harry Nilsson’s “Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah” and Aaron Neville’s “Mickey Mouse March”).

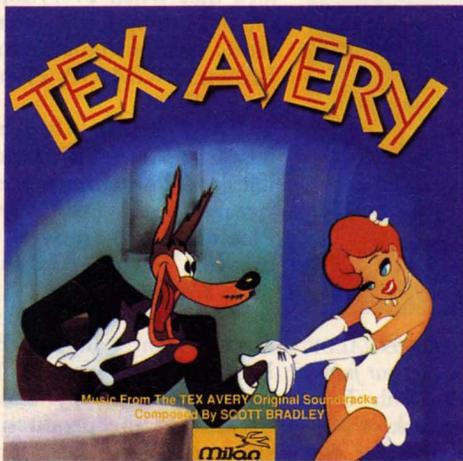
• **The Tune** (Newport Classics). Bill Plympton’s droll

shorts have appeared on MTV in his first full-length feature composer Maureen McElheron’s winning songs deftly skewer Elvis Presley (“Dig My Do”) and Fats Waller (“Love-sick Hotel”), not to mention country, tangos, and the blues. Very left field and very funny.

• **The Lord of the Rings** (Intrada). Leonard Rosenman’s complex and ambitious score dispels any notion that animated movies can’t benefit from—or don’t deserve—a serious composer’s attention. While more modest in its goals, Jerry Goldsmith’s *The Secret of NIMH* (Varèse Sarabande) proves the same point.

• **The Carl Stalling Project** (Warner Bros.). A compilation of the frenetic, bizarre, and brilliant music Stalling composed for classic Warner’s cartoons. Listening to this music divorced from its visual counterpart is especially disorienting. Scott Bradley mines a similar vein in *Tex Avery Cartoons* (Milan) with notable results, despite the distracting dialogue.

MICHAEL GILTZ



CARTOON MUSIC: ZIP-A-DEE-DOO-DAH!