



The Best Scores of 2007



THE TOP TEN

American Gangster (Marc Streitenfeld - Varese): An ultra-hip urban score never lets up with the thrill of the crime.

Beowulf (Alan Silvestri - Warner Bros.): With its big, bold themes, this is a soundtrack for the heroic ages.

The Kite Runner (Alberto Iglesias - Deutsche Grammophon): The tragedy of Afghanistan and the bonds of childhood friendship find a poetic, soaring power.

La Vie en Rose (Christopher YOUNG - EMI): A gorgeously sad score revels in the tormented, eternally romantic soul of singing legend Edith Piaf.

Lust / Caution (Alexandre Desplat - Decca): The melodic charms of ways of seduction finds its erotic instinct like never before.

Ratatouille (Michael Giacchino - Walt Disney): With a classic comedic vibe worthy of Henry Mancini's French farces, this rodent's music really cooks.

Sunshine (John Murphy - Unreleased): A mission to the sun becomes a hypnotic journey in alternative sci-fi scoring.

Stardust (Ilan Eshkeri - Decca): Storybook legends come true with a wondrous score that finds the magic of a fractured fairy tale.

There Will Be Blood (Jonny Greenwood - Nonesuch): The sound behind Radiohead strikes gold with an astonishingly modern approach for a turn-of-the-century oil tycoon.

300 (Tyler Bates - Warner Bros.): Spartan fury gets pumped up with a dynamic mix of headbanging rock and orchestral thunder.

Honorable Song Mention - *Once* (Glen Hansard / Marketa Irglova - Columbia): Even if these two Irish buskers never find romance, their tunes make for a beautifully heartfelt folk opera.

THE RUNNERS-UP

The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (Nick Cave / Warren Ellis - iTunes): A spare, yet elegantly elegiac approach to the myth of the western.

Eastern Promises (Howard Shore - Sony Classical): The darkness of the Russian Mafia gets surprising, and moving tenderness that sings with the wages of sin.

Enchanted (Alan Menken - Walt Disney): The king of Disney music has a blast making fun of the oh-so-happy toons that put him on top of the Oscar heap.

Fracture (Jeff and Mychael Danna - Silva Screen): The sound of the perfect murder becomes a lushly diabolical nail biter.

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (Nicholas Hooper - Warner Bros.): The dark magic of Harry's world takes on an impressive dramatic *gravitas* under a new musical wand.

The Lookout (James Newton Howard - iTunes): The suspense of film *noir* takes on a truly rural threat in this gripping, mixed-up

mind trip.

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium (Aaron Zigman and Alexandre Desplat - Varese): Childhood magic has never sounded as pure, or joyful as it does in this glittering score.

Rescue Dawn (Klaus Badelt - Milan): A war prisoner's ordeal becomes a spare, yet immensely moving lesson in musical existentialism.

Rocket Science (Eef Barzelay - Lakeshore): A clever, string-driven score wins the argument for inventiveness in the screwball world of high school debating.

Waitress (Andrew Hollander - Unreleased): The love of pie gets released with beautiful, folksy warmth.

COMPOSERS TO WATCH:

Olivier Bernet (*Persepolis*), Scott Bomar (*Black Snake Moan*), Tim Curran (*Hangman's House*), Harry Escott / Molly Nyman (*A Mighty Heart*), Scott Glasgow (*Hack*), Gordy Haab (*Behind the Mask*), Christian Henson (*Severance*), Jon and Al Kaplan (*Just Pals*), Victoria Kelly (*Black Sheep*), Penka Kouneva (*The Third Nail*), Don MacDonald (*Fido*), Blake Neeley (*Starter for 10*), Daniel P. Newman (*Bryan Loves You*), Yuri Poteyenko (*Daywatch*), Brian Reitzell (*30 Days of Night*), Francois Tetaz (*Rogue*), David Torn (*Lars and the Real Girl*), Lyle Workman (*Superbad*)