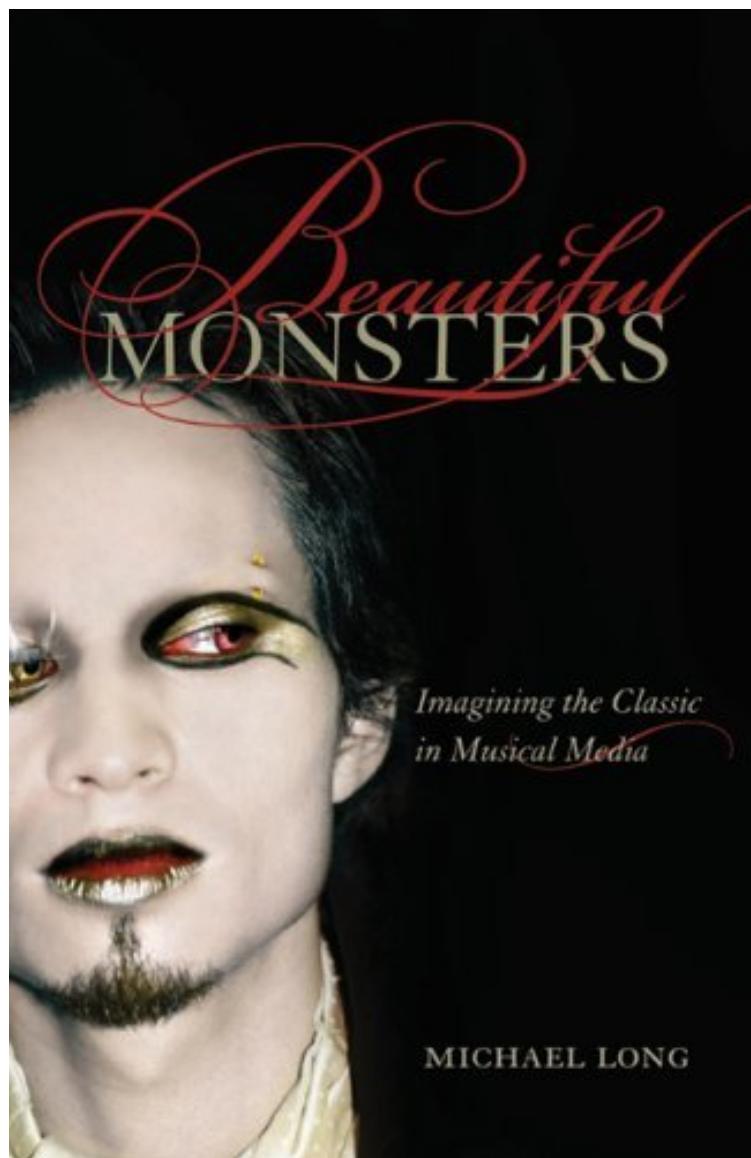


[Mobile ebook] Beautiful Monsters: Imagining the Classic in Musical Media (California Studies in 20th-Century Music)

## **Beautiful Monsters: Imagining the Classic in Musical Media (California Studies in 20th-Century Music)**

*Michael Long*

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0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. How we experience a stylistically unpredictable, mass-mediated

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By ROROTOKO "Beautiful Monsters" is on the ROROTOKO list of cutting-edge intellectual nonfiction. Professor Long's book interview ran here as cover feature on February 20, 2009.

Beautiful Monsters explores the ways in which "classical" music made its way into late twentieth-century American mainstream culture—*in* pop songs, movie scores, and print media. Beginning in the 1960s, Michael Long's entertaining and illuminating book surveys a complex cultural field and draws connections between "classical music" (as the phrase is understood in the United States) and selected "monster hits" of popular music. Addressing such wide-ranging subjects as surf music, Yiddish theater, Hollywood film scores, Freddie Mercury, Alfred Hitchcock, psychedelia, rap, disco, and video games, Long proposes a holistic musicology in which disparate musical elements might be brought together in dynamic and humane conversation. Beautiful Monsters brilliantly considers the ways in which critical commonplaces like nostalgia, sentiment, triviality, and excess might be applied with greater nuance to musical media and media reception. It takes into account twentieth-century media's capacity to suggest visual and acoustical depth and the redemptive possibilities that lie beyond the surface elements of filmic narrative or musical style, showing us what a truly global view of late twentieth-century music in its manifold cultural and social contexts might be like.

“This extraordinary work demands and deserves to be read and re-read, time and again, for the ideas presented here are innovative, thought provoking, and among the freshest and most exciting to emerge in recent years.”