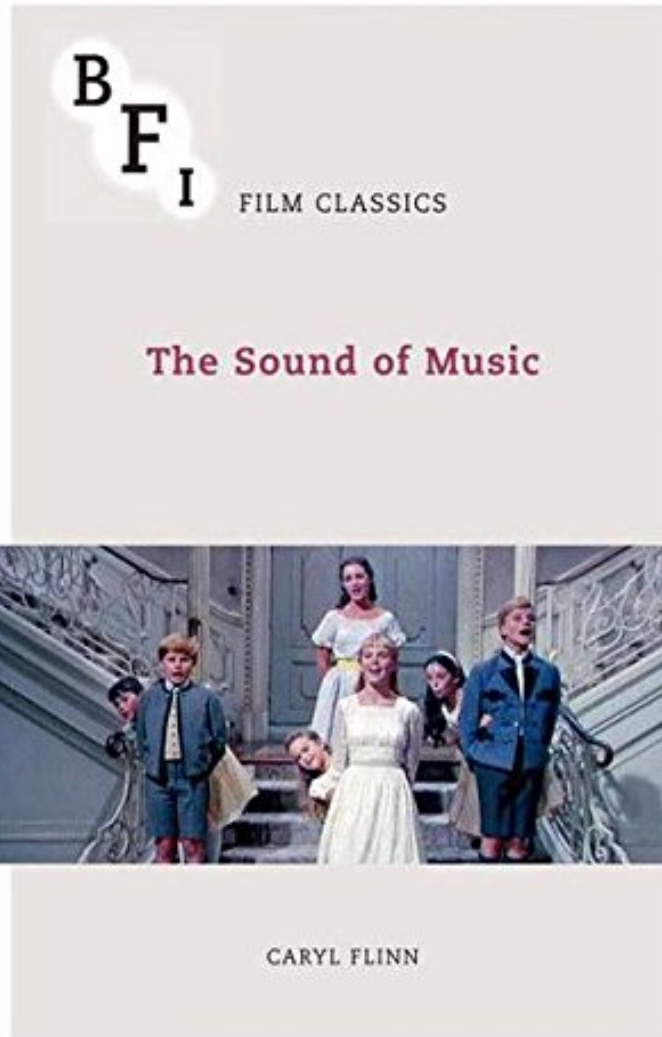


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## The Sound of Music (BFI Film Classics)

*Caryl Flinn*

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**Caryl Flinn : The Sound of Music (BFI Film Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sound of Music (BFI Film Classics):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not Another Piece of HagiographyBy William McKeldin Jr.I'm happy to see THE SOUND OF MUSIC get serious critical attention. This is not another piece of hagiography, but a fascinating analysis of what makes the movie work (concentrating, rightly -- I believe, on the songs). It does not ignore the critical disdain that has dogged the movie since its release, but acknowledges the problems that many people have

had with the movie while neither endorsing nor refuting the heavy criticism. There are the inevitable inaccuracies (SOUTH PACIFIC, not THE SOUND OF MUSIC, was the second most popular Rodgers and Hammerstein stage show after OKLAHOMA!), and some questionable interpretations (Ms. Flinn's characterization of the Baroness's "leave-taking" seems to miss the poignancy of Eleanor Parker's performance). But this is an enjoyable critical monograph about one of the most famous movies ever made.

Fifty years after its release, *The Sound of Music* (1965) remains the most profitable and recognisable film musical ever made. Quickly consolidating its cultural authority, the Hollywood film soon eclipsed the German film and Broadway musical that preceded it to become one of the most popular cultural reference points of the twenty-first century. In this fresh exploration, Caryl Flinn foregrounds the film's iconic musical numbers, arguing for their central role in the film's longevity and mass appeal. Stressing the unique emotional bond audiences establish with *The Sound of Music*, Flinn traces the film's prehistories, its place amongst the tumultuous political, social and cultural events of the 1960s, and its spirited afterlife among fans around the world.

From the Back Cover Fifty years after its release, *The Sound of Music* (1965) remains the most profitable and recognisable film musical ever made. Quickly consolidating its cultural authority, the Hollywood film soon eclipsed the German film and Broadway musical that preceded it to become one of the most popular cultural reference points of the twenty-first century. In this fresh exploration, Caryl Flinn foregrounds the film's iconic musical numbers, arguing for their central role in the film's longevity and mass appeal. Stressing the unique emotional bond audiences establish with *The Sound of Music*, Flinn traces the film's prehistories, its place amongst the tumultuous political, social and cultural events of the 1960s, and its spirited afterlife among fans around the world. About the Author Caryl Flinn is Professor of Screen Arts and Cultures at the University of Michigan, USA. She is the author of *Brass Diva: The Life and Legends of Ethel Merman*, *The New German Cinema: Music, History and the Matter of Style and Strains of Utopia: Nostalgia, Gender, and Hollywood Film Music* and co-editor of *Music and Cinema*.