



William Susman
FATE OF THE LHAPA

A spiritual and mystical journey fusing Asian and western sounds in this award-winning film score featuring Kronos Quartet Alumnus Joan Jeanrenaud and Tibetan Vocalist Tsering Wangmo

Fate of the Lhapa is the award-winning film score for the documentary feature of the same name about the last three Tibetan shamans living in a Tibetan refugee camp in Nepal. The score features performances by the renown cellist Joan Jeanrenaud (Kronos Quartet Alumnus) and Tibetan Vocalist Tsering Wangmo. Haunting and lyrical sounds of Asian and Western Music merge to set the tone for a spiritual and mystical journey about an ancient healing tradition in danger of extinction.

Note from the director Sarah Sifers:

Each Lhapa requested that their story be filmed. Their fear was that the next heir might not appear until after their own deaths. Subsequently, with no Lhapa alive to mentor the children, the documentary would be used to transmit the knowledge to the next generation. Their tales of nomadic childhoods, shamanic callings and apprenticeships, cosmologies of disease and treatments, and of their flight from Tibet during the Chinese occupation in the late 1950s is juxtaposed with images of present-day life in the camp, current healing practices and shared concerns of the future and the fate of their tradition.

Note from the Composer William Susman:

Scoring the documentary *Fate of the Lhapa* was an inspiring experience. I worked with a marvelous director, Sarah Sifers, who trusted my musicianship and gave me the freedom to compose a score that attempts to capture the place, culture, spirit and passion of the Tibetan Shamans and their broader historical context.

As with many of my scores, I look for melody and instrumentation that the filmmaker has captured on film. In *Fate of the Lhapa*, there were stunning musical moments including ritual chanting, a prayer vigil, bells, gongs, drumming and dance. All of these sonic elements contributed to my choice of melody, harmony, rhythm and instrumentation.

William Susman's score ...creates an atmosphere that amplifies the wonder, beauty and melancholy of the film's story and imagery ...richly varied in orchestration and mood... Cellist Joan Jeanrenaud's expressive playing adds a layer of soulful melancholy, and Tibetan vocalist Tsering Wangmo is especially haunting -- her keening contributes immeasurably to the score's emotional resonance. - All Media Guide

