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The Many Hats of Robert Altman: A Life in Cinema

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Nashville I'M EASY

WORDS & MUSIC BY
KEITH CARRADINE

Nashville (1975) is arguably the most highly acclaimed Altman film, in large part due to the fantastic sound throughout it. This film is a perfect example of a large ensemble cast, which was to become an Altman trademark. In its time *Nashville* was widely labeled as the best portrayal of the United States of America in any film to date. Altman's masterful use of music as well as overlapping dialogue permeates the film and creates an incredible auditory experience from start to finish.



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R: NASHVILLE CD RELEASE WORDS

We weren't trying to write "great" songs. We aimed to meet the spectrum of songs coming out of the Nashville music scene in 1974 when the film was made. Some of the songs were silly, some terrible, some well written and some not, some were extraordinary.

All the performers who were in the movie and are on the CD were very unique, for some it was a first film and a first singer songwriting experience. Each performer wrote their songs from the characters point of view, it lent a reality as well as a theatrical depth to the songs and performances.

We were never attempting to do a score like say Cole Porter, we were trying to create our take on the indigenous music of Nashville.

I am thrilled that the music of my film NASHVILLE is being re-released on CD. Enjoy it!

Robert Altman

Memo Altman prepared for a re-release of the film's music on CD in 2000.

Altman was known for creating an accurate portrayal of the era in which his films take place. In this essay for a new CD of *Nashville's* music he speaks of this intention to be authentic. Altman's deliberate use of songs of all forms and quality display the range of the music industry in *Nashville* in 1974. Having a song written by the performer whose point of view it is portraying helps increase the depth and believability of character, which is a consistently strong point in Altman films.

The song Keith Carradine wrote for his character to perform in *Nashville* became an instant hit and won the Academy Award for Best Original Song in 1975. Carradine's character sings this song in a music club, preceding it with a dedication to a "special someone." Several women in the crowd think he is singing exclusively for them. In reality, he has slept with all of them and has them all under the impression that they have his heart. This poignant scene is comprised of alternating shots between Carradine and each of the women he has tricked.