

April 11, 2007

The Score

Spring Books and DVDs
By Christopher DeLaurenti

In Spaces Speak, Are You Listening? (MIT Press) Barry Blesser musters an impressive and readable synthesis of acoustics, soundscape studies, neurology, echolocation, acoustic archaeology, and physics. "We manipulate spaces for social reasons," writes Blesser, who cofounded Lexicon, makers of the iconic reverb module of the 1980s. Under the rubric of "aural architecture" Blesser probes how sound in prehistoric caves, Greek amphitheaters, and modern concert halls intersects with the politics and pleasure of listening.