

# Death on the Down Beat

## An Orchestral Fantasy of Detection

Sebastian Farr, with an introduction by Martin Edwards

**Publishing September 2022**

- First published in 1941 but has been out-of-print since.
- A lost writer of the genre, and a pseudonym for Eric Walter Blom, a prolific Swiss-born and British-naturalised music lexicographer, music critic and writer.
- Immersive musical mystery featuring diagrams of the orchestra arrangement and four pages of musical notation with relevance to the plot.

### About this Title

During a performance of Strauss' tone poem 'A Hero's Life', the obnoxious conductor Sir Noel Grampian is shot dead in full view of the Maningpool Municipal Orchestra. He had many enemies, musicians and music critics among them, but to be killed in mid flow suggests an act of the coldest calculation.

Told through the letters of Detective Inspector Alan Hope to his wife as he puzzles over his findings, and other documents such as the letters of members of the orchestra and musical notation holding clues to the crime, this is an innovative and refreshing lost gem of the mystery genre. First published in 1941, the reader was promised an 'orchestral fantasy of detection' by the original subtitle – now the readers of today will have a new opportunity to enjoy this unusual and skilfully told classic.

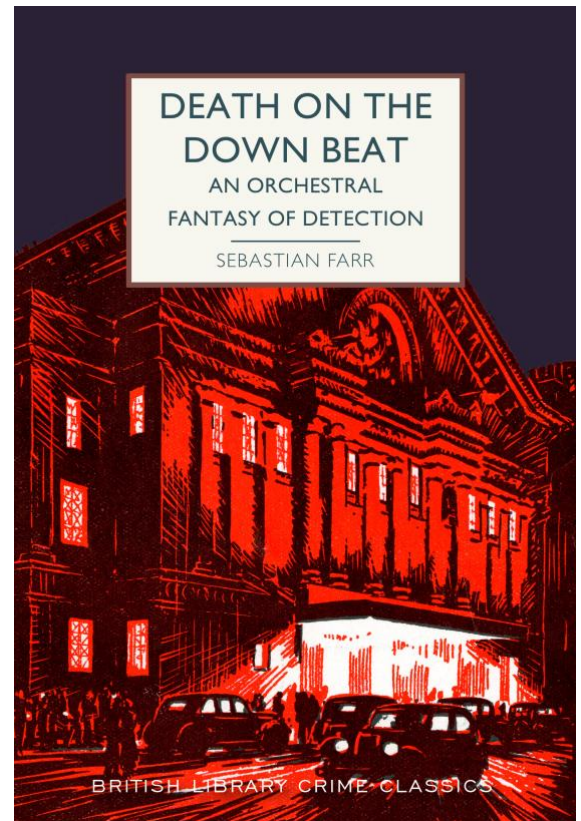
### About the Author

**Sebastian Farr** was the pseudonym used by Eric Walter Blom (1888–1959) for his single mystery novel. Blom was a Swiss-born British-naturalised music lexicographer, journalist and writer, most famous for his work as music critic for the Manchester Guardian, the Birmingham Post and The Observer, and for editing the fifth edition of *Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians* in 1954.

For rights enquiries contact: [publishing\\_editorial@bl.uk](mailto:publishing_editorial@bl.uk)

For sales enquiries contact: [publishing\\_sales@bl.uk](mailto:publishing_sales@bl.uk)

British Library Publishing, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

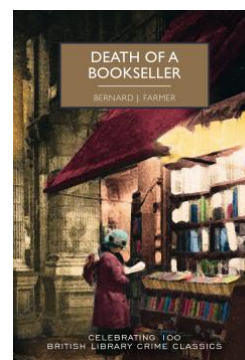


**Paperback £9.99**

**ISBN 978 0 7123 5402 8**

**256 pages, 190 x 130 mm**

**Publishing September 2022**



Also in the *Crime Classics* series:  
**Death of a Bookseller** by  
Bernard J Farmer

**ISBN:**

**978 0 7123 5328 1**