

Victor Vanacore

Grammy Award winner Victor Vanacore has been at the nexus of popular music for more than 30 years. Widely respected for his versatility, he has had a long history of fruitful collaborations with the biggest names in the entertainment industry, as a conductor, pianist, composer and arranger.

Originally from New Haven, Connecticut, Victor began learning the piano at the age of six, wrote his first composition at the age of eight and had 'perfect pitch' by the fifth grade, thus beginning his life-long fascination with music.

As a teenager, high school created an environment where Vanacore learned to stretch his talents further. While mastering the saxophone and clarinet in his high school's band, he also gained some unique opportunities—after gaining permission from the State—and played the piano at nightclubs, shows, and theaters, receiving valuable experience along the way by accompanying Broadway acts, opera singers, and celebrities. After serving in the U.S. Navy Band, he enrolled at the Berklee College of Music, from which he recently received an Alumnus Recognition Award as “One of the Top 60 Alumni.”

Victor was provided the high honor of being a student of orchestration with Dr. Albert Harris, Sidney Fine, Earle Hagen, William Maloof and Herb Pomeroy, and studied conducting master classes with Jeronimus Kacinskas, former Musical Director of the Vilnius Philharmonic (Lithuania).

As a composer-arranger, Victor's recent work has included the Motown- themed “***Detroit Soul***” for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra; “***America: Then and Now***” for the New Jersey Public Television Network; and, “***Spain Meets Birdland***” for the Berklee College of Music's 60th Anniversary. He has also been composing in collaboration with his composer brother, David, on the critically acclaimed hit CBS show “Survivor.”

Other television credits include music for the Academy Awards, Donald Trump's “The Apprentice,” and “American Idol.” He received the 2009 Telly Award for his musical contribution to the City of Hope Cancer Center's Fundraising Video, entitled “***Thank You.***”

In the classical arena—and at the request of Maestro Placido Domingo—Victor celebrated the world premiere of his oratorio, “***La Sorgente (The Source)***,” a collection of ten, neo-classical arias, inspired by the poems of St. John Paul II.

For many years now, Victor has been selected to be composer-in-residence at the famous “***Festival of The Arts' Pageant of the Masters***” at Laguna Beach, California, where he is commissioned annually to provide compositions and arrangements of all styles, Classical to Modern, to accompany living art (*tableaux vivants*).

In addition to Victor's work in film & Television, his work as a Symphony Pops conductor spans worldwide. Recent, repeat and upcoming engagements include not only major orchestras located in the United States, but also Canada, the United Kingdom, Serbia, Slovakia, Macedonia, Germany, Austria and Australia.

In conjunction with his career as a Pops conductor, Victor has had numerous associations with celebrity vocalists. He served as conductor, keyboardist and musical arranger for The Jackson Five, as well as conductor and arranger for The Fifth Dimension. Not long afterward, Johnny Mathis hired Victor as musical director for his world tour. He joined Barry Manilow for six years in the same capacity, receiving album credits that include, “If I Should Love Again,” “Barry Live in Britain,” “Barry,” and “The Greatest Hits.” More recent recording projects have included collaborations with ***Natalie Cole***, Teena Marie, ***George Benson*** and Dave Koz.

Victor feels honored to have enjoyed a close, personal relationship with the late-musical icon Ray Charles, who he met in 1990. They remained colleagues and friends until Mr. Charles' passing in 2004, during which time he served as his musical director, arranger, and opening act. A most meaningful adulation was whenever Victor heard Ray announce, “Victor Vanacore? He's my man!”

Ray Charles' only platinum album—and his final studio album—is entitled “Genius Loves Company,” and features Victor's orchestral arrangements for the Grammy-winning “***Somewhere Over the Rainbow***,” featuring special guest Johnny Mathis. The album was one of Ray's most commercially successful albums.

As a gesture of his respect and personal, warm friendship with Ray Charles, Victor donated the Grammy® Award winning “Victor Vanacore Conductor's Score for “***Somewhere Over the Rainbow***” to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame at Cleveland, Ohio.

Victor and his wife reside in Southern California.

INDUSTRY RECOGNITIONS

Grammy® Award

Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocalists, “***Somewhere Over the Rainbow***,” Ray Charles and Johnny Mathis
From Ray Charles’ “*Genius Loves Company*,” Best Immersive Audio Album, Concord Records
Triple Platinum and Eight Total Grammy Awards, including Album of the Year and Record of the Year

Telly Award

Musical contribution to the City of Hope Cancer Center’s Fundraising Video, entitled “***Thank You***”

Alumnus Recognition Award

All-Time Top 60 Alumni, Berklee College of Music, Boston

TELEVISION – SERIES / MINISERIES / TELEFILMS / DOCUMENTARIES

WIPEOUT (Additional Music, Multiples)
MysticArt Pictures / ABC

J. Rupert Thompson, dir.
Matt Kunitz, Trice Barto, Scott Larsen, prods.

ALASKA MOOSE MEN (Co-Composer, Multiples)
American Chainsaws / Animal Planet

Ken Charles, Robert Michael Kelly, Royal Malloy,
Christopher Maragni, Colt and Dick Straub, prods.

SURVIVOR: PHILLIPINES PREVIEW
TV Guide Network

Michael A. Simon, dir.
Carl Bernstein, Jesse Jensen, Joe Lia, Drina Maruna, prods.

HONEYMOON WITH MOM (Additional Music)
ACH / Lifetime Network

Paul A. Kaufman, dir.
Sylvia Hess, prod.

SURVIVOR (Additional Music, Multiples)
Mark Burnett Productions / CBS All Access

Multiple, dirs.
Mark Burnett, Charlie Parsons, Jeff Probst, prods.

HELL’S KITCHEN (Additional Music, Multiples)
Granada Entertainment / FOX Network

Multiple, dirs.
Multiple, prods.

THE 78TH ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS
(Additional Music, Arranger, Orchestrator)
AMPAS / ABC

Louis J. Horvitz, dir.
Gilbert Cates, Tally Barr, prods.

THE APPRENTICE: MARTHA STEWART (Additional Music)
Mark Burnett Productions / NBC

Luciana Brafman, Jeff Cole, Rob LaPlante, prods.

WIPEOUT (Additional Music, Multiples)
MysticArt Pictures / ABC

J. Rupert Thompson, dir.
Matt Kunitz, Trice Barto, Scott Larsen, prods.

THE 77TH ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS
(Arranger, Orchestrator)
AMPAS / ABC

Louis J. Horvitz, Robert Goodman, dirs.
Gilbert Cates, Jeff Stilson, prods.

DIRTY JOBS (Additional Music, Multiples)
Pilgrim Films & Television / Discovery Channel

Alex Eastburg, Ari Gottfried, prods.

JOE MILLIONAIRE (Co-Composer. Multiples)
Rocket Science Laboratories / Fox Broadcasting

Bryan O'Donnell, Brian Smith, Glen “GT” Taylor, dirs.
Elizabeth Bronstein, Chris Cowan, Adam Briles, prods.

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE (Additional Music, Multiples)
GBH / PBS

Multiple, dirs.
Mickey Worsnup, Philip Dunn, Douglas Varchol, prods.

WOODROW WILSON AND THE BIRTH OF THE AMERICAN CENTURY
Red Hill productions / PBS American Experience

Carl Byker, Mitch Wilson, dirs.
Richard Kassebaum, Isaac Mizrahi, David Mrazek, prods.

CHASING THE SUN (Multiples)
KCET / PBS

BEHIND THE MUSIC (Additional Music)
VH1 Television

RAY CHARLES AMERICA (Self)
Tremolo Productions / A&E Indie Films

Carl Byker, Mitch Wilson, Issac Mizrahi, dirs.
David Mrazek, Issac Mizrahi, prods.

Martin R. Smith, dir.
Jason Goodman, prod.

Alex Spraic, dir.
Morgan Neville, prod.

MOTION PICTURES

VICE AND VIRTUE
Trio Entertainment

ZUGZWANG
Dragongate Films

COYOTE UGLY (Self, Band Member)
Touchstone Pictures / Buena Vista Pictures

HOT SHOTS! PART DEUX (Arranger)
Twentieth Century Fox

Cedi Ali Rajah, dir.
Kristanna Loken, Nikolas Palchikoff, prods.

Stephen Stewart, dir.
Kate Atkinson, John Mancini, prods.

David McNally, dir.
Jerry Bruckheimer, Chad Oman, prods.

Jim Abrahams, dir.
Bill Badalato, prod.

MUSIC DIRECTOR – RECORD ALBUMS

RAY CHARLES
BARRY MANILOW
TEENA MARIE

JOHNNY MATHIS
NATALIE COLE
GEORGE BENSON

THE FIFTH DIMENSION
THE JACKSON FIVE

MUSIC VIDEOS

PART OF THE PLAN – Dan Fogelberg, Sony Music (Arranger) Kate Atkinson, dir.

DISCOGRAPHY (Selected Credits)

American Standard Time: Victor Vanacore
A Touch More Magic (Barry Manilow) Arista
A Whisper...A Sigh...A Dream (Michael Vaccaro, Clarinet)
Neapolitan Suite for Clarinet and Piano
At the Movies (Dave Coz) Capitol Records
Barry (Barry Manilow) Arista
Barry Live in Britain (Barry Manilow)
Barry Manilow – A Touch More Magic (Barry Manilow) Arista
Barry Manilow – I Wanna Do It With You (Barry Manilow)
Polygr.
Different Kind of Different (Johnny Mathis) Columbia
Este Amor Es Como El Viento (Jairo) RCA
First Bobby Hart Solo Album (Bobby Hart) WEA
Genius Loves Company (Ray Charles) Liberty EMI Records
Greatest Hits, The (Barry Manilow)
Here Comes the Night (Barry Manilow) Arista
Hey, Girl (Michael McDonald)
If I Should Love Again (Barry Manilow) Arista
It Was A Very Good Year (Ray Charles, Willie Nelson)
Les Fontômes Du Chapelier (Jairo) Garima Records

Let's Hang On (Barry Manilow) Arista
Manilow (Barry Manilow) RCA
On Saturday Afternoons 1963 (Jimmy Demers) Concord Records
Romantica (Teena Marie)
Sapphire (Teena Marie) Cash Money Classics / Universal
Somebody Just Like You (Teena Marie)
Something Kind of Different (Johnny Mathis)
Somewhere (Anita Baker)
Sorrow and Melancholia (David Vanacore, Victor
Vanacore) Juice On Demand
Sorry Seems To Be The Hardest Word (Elton John)
State of My Heart (LaToya London) Peak Records
Still Unforgettable (Natalie Cole) DMI/Atco
Summer Knows, The (Dave Koz)
Touch Me in the Morning (Ruth Brown) DJ Records
You Blow Me Away (Teena Marie)
You Don't Know Me / Touch Me in the Morning (Ruth
Brown) Indigo Recordings Ltd

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Federation of Musicians
American Federation of Television and Radio Artists
National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences
Society of Composers and Lyricists
American Society of Music Arrangers and Composers
PaLM Music Foundation

American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers

CONDUCTING ENGAGEMENTS

Ann Arbor Symphony	Hattiesburg Symphony	Omaha Symphony
Athens Symphony (Georgia)	Hollywood Bowl Orchestra	Oregon Symphony
Atlanta Symphony	Houston Symphony	Orlando Philharmonic
Auckland Symphony (Australia)	Huntsville Symphony	Pacific Symphony
Augusta Symphony	Indianapolis Symphony	Palais Des Congrès Orchestre (Paris)
Austin Symphony	Jacksonville Symphony	Phoenix Symphony
Australian Pops Orchestra	Kansas City Symphony	Portland Symphony
Baltimore Symphony	Kitchner-Waterloo Symphony	Rhode Island Philharmonic
Belgrade Philharmonic (Serbia)	Knoxville Symphony	Richmond Symphony (Indiana)
Boca Raton Symphony	Lansing Symphony	Rochester Philharmonic
Bratislava Philharmonic (Slovakia)	Lincoln Symphony	Rutgers University Orchestra
Buffalo Philharmonic	Łódź Philharmonic (Poland)	Rutgers Jazz Ensemble
Calgary Philharmonic (Canada)	London Philharmonic (United Kingdom)	St. Louis Symphony
Carolina Pops	Los Angeles Philharmonic	Salt Lake City Symphony
Cedar Rapids Symphony Pops	Los Angeles Symphonic Jazz Orchestra	San Antonio Symphony
Charleston Symphony	Louisiana Philharmonic	San Francisco Symphony
Charlotte Symphony	Melbourne Philharmonic (Australia)	San Juan Symphony (Colorado)
Chattanooga Symphony	Metropolitan Symphony (Twin Cities)	Seattle Symphony
Cincinnati Symphony	Milwaukee Symphony	Skellefteå Symphony (Sweden)
Colorado Symphony	Minnesota Orchestra	Skopje Philharmonic (Macedonia)
Columbus Symphony	Mobile Symphony	South Dakota Symphony
Concord Symphony	Mozarteum Orchestra (Austria)	Spartenburg Philharmonic
Dallas Symphony	Napa Valley Symphony	Spokane Symphony
Dayton Philharmonic	Nashville Symphony	Stockton Symphony
Detroit Symphony	National Symphony (Kennedy Center)	Sydney Philharmonic (Australia)
Edmonton Philharmonic (Canada)	New Haven Symphony	Tacoma Symphony
Florida Orchestra	New West Symphony	Thunder Bay Symphony (Canada)
Fort Worth Symphony	New Jersey Symphony	Topeka Symphony
Grand Rapids Symphony Pops	New Orleans Symphony	Tucson Symphony
Greensboro Symphony	Norfolk Symphony	Vancouver Philharmonic (Canada)
Greenville Symphony	Oklahoma City Philharmonic	Vienna Boys Choir
Hanover Pops (Germany)	Omaha Symphony	Winnipeg Symphony (Canada)
Hartford Symphony	Oklahoma City Philharmonic	York Symphony (Pennsylvania)

LIVE PERFORMANCES (Leading Audience Programs) – Conductor, Arranger, Pianist

HOT! HOT! HOT! – “A Night at The Copa: An Evening of Latin Dance and Romance”

OYE COMO VA & PATRICIA (Cha Cha) – *Carlos Santana meets Perez Prado*

JUMP, JIVE AND WAIL! – “An Evening of Swing, Dance and Romance”

BOOM!! MUSIC OF THE BABY BOOMER GENERATION — From The Beach Boys to The Beatles to Earth Wind and Fire

BROADWAY NOW! – *with vocals by Steve Amerson*

RED, WHITE AND BLUES... – “The Star-Spangled Rhythms of America”

A MIDNIGHT CLEAR – *A Magical Christmas Show to include skaters and choir*

BORN IN THE USA! – Includes both a male and female vocalist

AMERICAN STANDARD TIME – From Old tunes to iTunes

DANCIN' IN THE STREETS – Featuring dancers Minn Vo & Stephanie Klausman and Andrzej Przybyl & Jennifer Binkowski

SWING! SWING! SWING! – A Night at Roseland. The African-American Culture and its dominance over the American Swing Scene

COLONIAL ROAD MUSIC – THE RENTAL LIBRARY OF VICTOR VANACORE

**Swing
Latin Music
TV & Film
Country**

**Dance
International
Specialty Music**

**Mainstream Pop
On Broadway
Holiday**

**Frank Sinatra Collection
Vocal
Patriotic**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF MR. VANACORE'S COLLABORATIONS AND PERFORMANCES

"I like to sing different songs now and then. With Victor, he makes it possible. He plays the piano, can write music on the spot, can rehearse all within 5 minutes and I can sing it that night. We have traveled the world together. I knew when we stopped traveling and he started his own project, it would be a short time before he would be on the stage by himself. How proud I was to be in the audience at the Hollywood Bowl and watch Victor perform by himself."—***Johnny Mathis***

"Victor Vanacore? He's my man!"—***Ray Charles***

"Victor Vanacore's pops charts bring out the best from your orchestra. His sophisticated arrangements add the advanced harmonies, energetic rhythms and clever choices of instrumentation that give a truly professional sound to each song. At my most recent Swing concert with the St. Louis Philharmonic, the audience gave us a standing ovation after hearing Victor's arrangement of "In The Mood," the first time in 20 years of pops concerts this has occurred in the middle of a program. The mixture of Big Band and symphonic elements was irresistible and incredibly effective. Bravo, Victor!"—***Robert Hart Baker, Conductor, St. Louis Philharmonic***

"Just wanted to let you know, as soon as I returned home from the concert, that the audience was screaming for the King of Pop. Everyone loved it. It was a challenging piece to play and really fun too. Never boring, just really well written and everyone went nuts for it. You should have heard the crowd.....wow.....No problems with any parts. Just really bookin'."—***Lauren Jones, Librarian, California Symphony***

"Victor Vanacore worked with us in Charlotte, and I recommend him without reservation. His charts were just what we needed. Highly cinematic. He gets it. Drop the light classical and give Victor a test drive. His charts are excellent, and the addition of his conducting adds a spark to the evening. Our most complete pops show in years. After the Vanacore show there was a buzz outside the hall. Board members remarked that friends were contacting them about what a great evening they had and how exciting the orchestra sounded. Victor's understanding and insights into the cinematic use of orchestration breathes life and excitement into the concert hall, audiences and players alike. His charts are genuine, hip, cool and draw the audience into the show and empower the orchestra to entertain across the lights. This is the sound of the American Pops Orchestra as it should be heard in the 21st century. Real estate is location, location, location. Orchestra Pops is presentation, presentation, presentation. Victor Vanacore's arrangements present the orchestra in a fresh, effective, enthusiastic, authentically creative palette of variations and colors."—***David Mills, Librarian, Charlotte Symphony, Aspen Music Festival***

"Victor Vanacore is one of the most innovative and commanding symphonic arrangers I have seen in a long, long time. He understands the needs of the pops orchestra and writes brilliant and creative arrangements for every type of concert setting. Every time I listen to one of his arrangements I am struck by how unique and colorful his work is. All orchestras should know about him."—***Karen M. Smith, Librarian, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Disney Music Preparation, Personal Librarian to John Williams, Lalo Schifrin and Lee Holdridge***

"Vanacore's richly orchestrated arias, both secular and sacred, recounts stories from the Pope's personal experiences in the great outdoors, of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel and the Old Testament. Timeless and inspiring, they illuminate the universality of man and man's relationship to nature."—***MusicalAmerica Worldwide Review of "La Sorgente"***

"Thank you for your excellent arrangement (Disco at The Pops). We enjoyed it very much!"—***Karen Peters, Librarian, Orlando Philharmonic***

"The Lansing Symphony was fortunate to have Victor Vanacore and his Hot! Hot! Hot! Pops show as part of our 2008-2009 season. The arrangements were outstanding, authentic, entertaining yet very playable for the orchestra."—***David S. Gross, Executive Director, Lansing Symphony***

"The arranger, Victor Vanacore, does these amazing, detailed demos of his charts, and when I heard it, I was knocked out, too."—***John Burk, Executive Producer, Concord Records***

"Ray Charles sang in front of the superb arrangements of his conductor Victor Vanacore"—***The Hollywood Reporter***

“On Friday at the Hollywood Bowl a trimmed down Los Angeles Philharmonic was conducted superbly by Victor Vanacore.”—**Don Heckman, Los Angeles Times**

“Vanacore was honored as the hometown boy done good, but the truth is that he was much better than good.”—**John Mangan New Haven Register**

“One of the enjoyable aspects of Sunday’s show was that the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Victor Vanacore, seemed to have something important to do.”—**On Wisconsin Magazine**

“At the Hollywood Bowl concert the orchestra was smartly conducted by Victor Vanacore.”—**Zan Stewart, Los Angeles Times**

“His arrangements were universally acknowledged by the musicians as being particularly good.”—**Spokesman Review**

“Fine work by the enthusiastic conductor, Victor Vanacore.”—**Jen Graves, Tacoma New Tribune**

“What an absolute knockout! Thanks so much, Victor, for creating a milestone concert for the Rutgers University Music Department.”
Ralph Bowen, Director of Jazz Studies, Rutgers University

“As the second act began, Vanacore, a great artist, conductor and arranger, led the Napa Valley Symphony in a marvelous piece he’d created. It was the blending of George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody In Blue” with an old favorite, a samba called “Brazil”—a surprising mix that worked like a charm.”—**Ev Parker, Napa Valley Register**

“Victor Vanacore brought his arrangements, dancers, and his own energy and excitement to Stockton for two performances of Hot, Hot, Hot with the Stockton Symphony. The atmosphere was tremendous as was the show and the crowd reaction.”—**David Hyslop, Interim General Manager, Stockton Symphony**

“Victor Vanacore knows the power of music.”—**Milwaukee Journal Sentinel**

“It was Hot, Hot, Hot at DeVos Performance Hall on Friday for the Grand Rapids Symphony's Pops Series show titled "Hot! Hot! Hot!"— **The Grand Rapids Press**

“Leading both the Renaissance Orchestra and his touring group of musicians and singers, the personable arranger/conductor/pianist Victor Vanacore presented "Red, White and Blues, The Star Spangled Rhythms of America". And as the music kept coming, the beat just got better in the two-hour show at Glendale's “Americana at Brand” on Thursday night.”—**Bill Peters, The Glendale News-Press**

“**Victor Vanacore Marries Dance, Symphony for 'Hot! Hot! Hot! Show'**”—**Tony Sauro, Record Staff Writer**

“Hot! Hot! Hot!”—the symphony's pre-Valentine's Day concert—warmed a bitterly cold evening Friday with 15 spicy samples of dance music from the Caribbean and Latin America. In the process, guest conductor and pianist Victor Vanacore exposed the underlying beat that continuously renewed the Latin influence in American popular music from the 1950s into the 1990s.”—**Todd von Kampen, World-Herald, review of Omaha Symphony Concert**