

Grammy Award Winner, Victor Vanacore has been at the nexus of popular music for the past 25 years.

Born in New Haven, Connecticut, Victor Vanacore learned the joy of performing for audiences at a very early age. By the time he was in high school he had mastered the piano, saxophone and clarinet and, after receiving permission from the state to work while under age, he gained invaluable experience playing piano in nightclubs, theatres and shows for opera singers, Broadway acts and celebrities.

Subsequently, Vanacore joined the Navy where he performed with the highly acclaimed Navy Band. It was while performing in the Navy with several Berklee graduates that he decided to pursue a music education at Berklee where he ultimately earned a degree. After Berklee he continued his studies in orchestration with several prominent arrangers and attended conducting master classes with Jeronimus Kacinskas, Musical Director of the Vilnius Philharmonic .

In 1974 Vanacore joined the Jackson Five as a keyboardist and musical arranger. A year later, he became the Jackson Five's permanent conductor and arranger. He spent two years touring with Johnny Mathis, six years with Barry Manilow and received album credits for four Manilow albums.

From 1990 until 2004, when legend Ray Charles passed, Vanacore worked as Musical Director, Arranger and Opening Act for Mr. Charles and ultimately received a Grammy Award for his orchestral arrangements for Ray Charles' only platinum CD, titled, "Genius Loves Company".

Most recently, Victor Vanacore has collaborated with Producer Phil Ramone, Executive Producer Clive Davis and jazz saxophonist, Dave Koz on various arranging projects.

Victor Vanacore enjoys a career as a Pops Conductor with many symphony orchestras, worldwide. His recent TV credits include working as a composer on such hit shows as "Survivor", "The Apprentice", and "The Contender". His arrangements were also heard on the 2005 Academy Awards Show. In 2006 Vanacore received the Alumnus Recognition Award from the Berklee College of music as "One of the top 50 Alumni ".....

Some of Vanacore's conducting credits include: Vienna Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Houston Philharmonic, National Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Sydney Symphony, Vienna Choir Boys, Bratislava Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Victor Vanacore brings a powerful and extremely varied lifetime of experiences to the stage that make him a real force in the music industry: pianist, composer, arranger, conductor, musical confidant and accompanist to celebrities and an interpreter and ambassador of orchestral music to audiences, worldwide.

Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocalists – 2004

"Over The Rainbow"

Ray Charles and Johnny Mathis