



photo: lena ringstad

Scott Erickson – Biography

From Barry to Barney, Mickey to Mijares, or Shanghai to Stockholm, Scott Erickson produces, arranges and writes songs with an experienced and flexible style that glides through the most demanding and diverse musical challenges. From co-producing **Barry Manilow**'s Grammy nominated 'In the Swing of Christmas,' to producing the latest platinum selling album '**Vivir Así**' for Latin superstar **Mijares** to composing a slew of entertaining songs for a for the long running children's show **Barney and Friends**, Scott brings a passion to any project he accepts. For example, writing and producing the music for several of the Disney theme parks' most popular live shows in Tokyo and Paris as well as the theme songs for the **2010 World's Fair in Shanghai** are all in an enthusiastic day's work for Scott—a very skilled enthusiastic day's work.

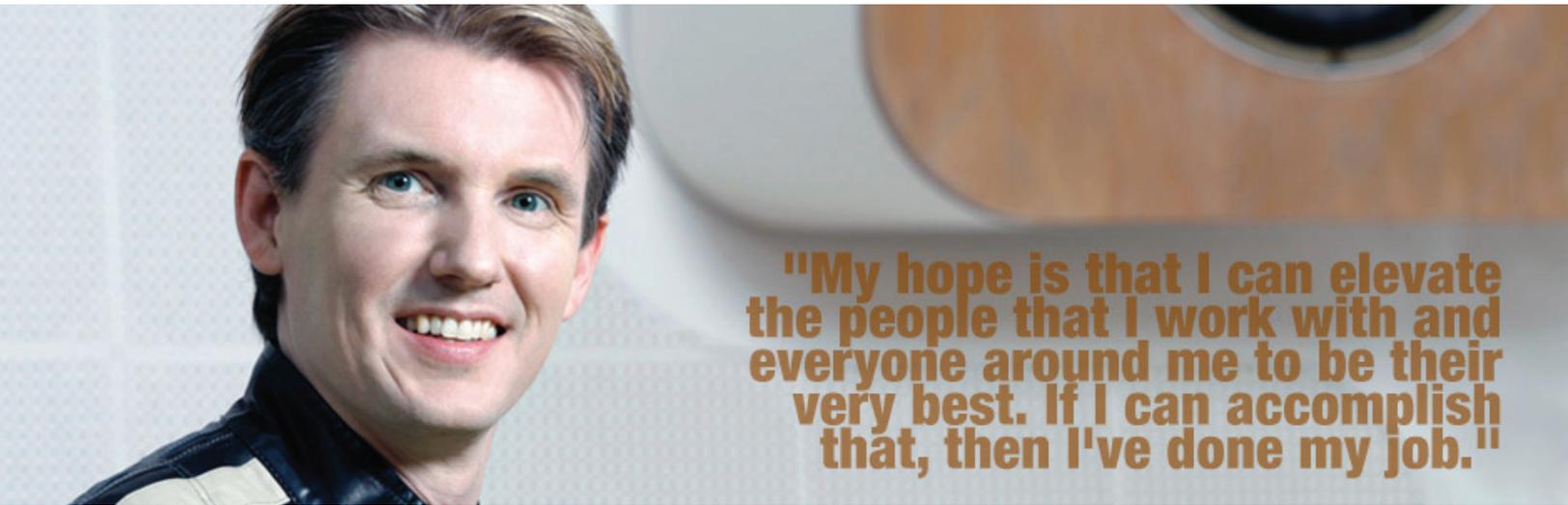
Scott grew up in Washington State and discovered his love for music at an early age. Where most young people pledge allegiance to superstars on the front of album covers, Scott was in awe of the behind the scenes players on the back covers. Such attention to detail would serve him well in his destined field of profession...along with a classical music foundation to support his pop music appreciation when embracing new challenges.

"What I love most about producing is getting to work with so many other talented musicians," Scott states. "The musicians I get to work with are the greatest on the planet and make everything I work on better than I could imagine! Being around them is so inspiring... What could possibly be better than working with these musicians I've loved, admired and respected since I was a kid?"

Scott Erickson was born in Appleton, Wisconsin and grew up all over Washington State. At the age of seven, Scott's piano instructor entered him into a young piano composer contest where he placed 2nd. However, the instrument that truly called his spirit was the drums. He got his first snare drum in fourth grade. By sixth grade he was performing in both the **All City Band and Chorus**. When the family moved to Eugene, Oregon during junior high, Scott was evolving into an outstanding classical percussionist, playing in the youth symphony. All the while, his musical taste was blooming across the spectrum of music, especially pop and jazz vocals.

A year apiece at the University of Washington and Washington State University (a time in which he was also a member of the **Washington/Idaho Symphony**) led to a year of traveling around the globe singing and dancing with the non-denominational musical organization **Up With People**. This opportunity gave Scott an up close perspective on different cultures where he truly learned just how international the language of music can be.

Scott settled in Massachusetts for the next three years at the renowned **Berklee School of Music**, where he majored in on Music Production, Engineering and Arranging. Never shy, Scott's zeal for reaching out to artists he loved brought him into contact with vocal quartet **The Manhattan Transfer**. The friendship resulted in his very first professional gig as a copyist of orchestra charts arranged by **Corey Allen**, "TMT" member Cheryl Bentyne's husband and among Scott's earliest mentors. He would later earn the privilege of hearing them sing a vocal arrangement he co-created with member **Tim Hauser** of King Pleasure's "Blues I Like to Hear" from a Stuttgart, Germany stage.



"My hope is that I can elevate the people that I work with and everyone around me to be their very best. If I can accomplish that, then I've done my job."

Upon graduating from Berklee, Scott moved to Los Angeles. Within weeks of his arrival Scott also penetrated the inner circle of another of his all-time favorite artists, **Barry Manilow**. Four days into the gig as a production assistant, he was putting the copying skills to work assisting Manilow by recopying band charts. Fast forward a couple of decades and Scott would be co-producing Manilow's Grammy-nominated Hallmark holiday CD, *In the Swing of Christmas*.

From 93-94 he learned the inner workings of a major corporate record company as an assistant to MCA Music Entertainment Group Chairman **Al Teller**, offering him the opportunity to work with many executives that would prove instrumental later in his career.

Following his experience at MCA Scott Erickson spent seven years as the assistant to pop arranger and producer **Robbie Buchanan**. During this time he coordinated, engineered and later associate produced (along side Robbie) recordings for some of the industry's biggest artists, including **Barbara Streisand, Johnny Mathis, Bette Midler, Peabo Bryson and Michael Crawford**.

As the changing of the millennium approached, Scott accepted a one-off assignment to do some demos for *"The Tigger Movie"* that kicked off an association that would branch off into several divisions of **Disney**. That first assignment found him working with the legendary Disney songwriting team **The Sherman Brothers**. Acknowledging Scott's fine efforts, **Dick Sherman** forecasted, "You will do great things with this company." And so it came to pass – from engineering and coordination on the *"102 Dalmations"* and *"Gepetto"* projects to orchestration and choral arranging for *"Best of Pooh & Heffalumps, Too"* (featuring **Carly Simon**), *"Bambi 2"* (featuring **Alison Krauss**) and *"Tarzan II: The Legend Begins"* (featuring **Phil Collins**) – all for Disney Toons Studio. Nice work for a guy who recognizes his birthday as the day that Disney's "The Jungle Book" had its theatrical release (October 17, 1967).

Scott also ghost wrote several episodes for the first season of **"Dragon Tales"** (1999) which led to even more interactive work at **Sony Tristar**. And he is currently a regular contributor to children's television gems such as *"Barney"* and *"Angelina Ballerina."*

Scott's expertise in music that often animates parades, cartoons and Christmas albums is one of the factors that set him apart from peers that only work in the field of pop music recordings. "It's a jingle sensibility," he explains, likening his intuition to that of the people who coin catchy television/radio commercial spots. "I can write a good hook!"

That sensibility has resulted in Scott Erickson melodies touching hearts around the globe. Scott finally landed his first solo producer's credit helming half of the 2001 CD *Dreams* by singer/songwriter **Michelle Tumes** (an ASCAP Christian Writer of the Year honoree). He is the co-writer of the hit song *"When She Smiles"* by South African singer **Ed Jordan**. He got to work with one of his childhood production icons **Ron Dante** on an *Archies Christmas album* as well as two songs for former Monkees lead singer **Davy Jones**. He recently composed the theme songs for the **2010 Shanghai World's Fair**. And in 2009 he produced the Spanish language album *Vivir Asi* by Mexican singing star **Mijares**. The CD shot to #1, remained in the Top 3 in Mexico for 8 weeks, and became **Warner Music Mexico's** biggest seller that year.

"If I can feel an emotional journey in the music once I've completed it, I know I've done my job. But once I've finished something," he concludes, "I'm off to the next thing." Scott Erickson distinguishes himself from songwriters by identifying more with the title "composer for hire." 90% of the songs he's written have been placed. So if you want to call him a songwriter...go right ahead. He has an extremely good track record. And his work load is only getting heavier.