

BURT BACHARACH

Biography

Six decades into one of songwriting's most successful and honored careers – marked by 48 Top 10 hits, nine #1 songs, more than 500 compositions and a landmark 49-year run on the charts, Burt Bacharach's music continues to set industry records and creative standards. "At This Time," his 2005 album, which won the Grammy for Best Pop Instrumental Album, breaks new ground with Bacharach's first-ever lyrical collaborations, supplementing the melodies which reflect the pioneering Bacharach sound. He says it is the "most-passionate album" of his career as "At This Time" marks the first time Bacharach takes on social and political issues in his music.

Bacharach's global audiences span several generations, and he is viewed as the unique combination of one of the greatest composers of all time and the ultra-cool cult hero of the contemporary music set who often has several songs on various music charts in many countries simultaneously. His many concerts are SRO, as he tours the United States and the world conducting orchestras and with his own musicians and singers performing his music.

Along with Bob Dylan, John Lennon and Paul McCartney and Paul Simon, Bacharach is a legend of popular music. A recipient of three Academy Awards and seven Grammy Awards (including the 1997 Trustees Award with collaborator Hal David), he revolutionized the music of the 1950s and 60s and is regularly bracketed with legendary names, ranging from Cole Porter, to Sir George Martin, as one of a handful of visionaries who pioneered new forms of music from the second half of the 20th Century and into the 21st Century.

After six decades of writing love songs, Bacharach has shifted his attention to his indignation over the state of the world in his latest album, "At This Time." Collaborating with Elvis Costello, Dr. Dre, Rufus Wainwright, Chris Botti and others, "At This Time" features a 35-piece orchestra performing new Bacharach melodies with his first-ever self-penned lyrics. Bacharach says he wrote the lyrics (many with Tonio K) because "there are things I needed to say." The album was released in the U.S. by Columbia Records and internationally by Sony BMG in late fall, and immediately became a critical success and a 2005 Grammy winner.

A second 2005 Grammy was related to Bacharach, as well. Aretha Franklin's recording of the Bacharach-David classic, "A House Is Not a Home," won in the Best Traditional R&B Vocal Performance category.

The composer last produced, arranged and conducted an album of his own songs sung by R&B icon Ronald Isley, "Here I Am: Ronald Isley Meets Burt Bacharach," in 2003. With 11 Bacharach/Hal David classics are two songs which marked Bacharach's first collaborations with Tonio K., the album held spots on the BILLBOARD's Top R&B/Hip-Hop Album Chart for months after its debut

"Here I Am: Ronald Isley Meets Burt Bacharach" wasn't the only Bacharach composition on the charts in 2003 and 2004. In one week in March, 2004, for example, Bacharach and David had a #1 hit on BILLBOARD's Hot 100 with "Slow Jamz" by Twista featuring Kanye West and Jamie Foxx which sampled the Luther Vandross' version of "A House Is Not a Home," a Modern Rock Tracks hit with "I Just Don't Know What to Do With Myself" by the White Stripes, a Club Play Hit on the dance chart with Cyndi Lauper's "Walk On By," and Steve Tyrell's "This Guy's in Love" album continued its run as #3 on the BILLBOARD's Top Contemporary Jazz Album chart. Bacharach and David enjoyed another top ten hit in November, 2003, when their song, "The Look of Love," was sampled in Ashanti's "Rain on Me."

Mike Myers considers Bacharach his lucky charm, and cast him in all three "Austin Powers" films. He was recently a guest artist on ABC-TV's "Dancing with the Stars," and Bacharach has been a special guest three times on the top-rated television series "American Idol," with many of his songs performed by the young stars on the show. The finalists of "American Idol" recorded and released a charity single of the 1967 Bacharach classic, "What The World Needs Now Is Love," that became a #4 hit on the BILLBOARD Hot 100 Singles Sales chart in 2003.

His songs have been recorded by legendary singers, such as Frank Sinatra, The Beatles, Barbra Streisand, Neil Diamond, Linda Ronstadt, Dionne Warwick and Franklin. Other tributes to the diversity of Bacharach's music have been paid by, among others, Elvis Costello ("I'll Never Fall in Love Again" and "God Give Me Strength"), REM, Diana Krall, Barenaked Ladies, Sheryl Crow, Wynonna Judd and Myers.

In December, 2003, Bacharach, Isley, James Ingram and Michael McDonald paired with the ice skating artistry of Brian Boitano, Brian Orser and Nicole Bobek for a “McCormick Presents Burt Bacharach Tribute on Ice,” an NBC television special.

And the beat goes on... Hip-O Select released “Burt Bacharach – Something Big” (Hip-o Select/Universal) in November, 2004, while Universal distributed “What The World Needs Now: Burt Bacharach Classics” (A&M/UME), in August, 2003. The album featured 23 selections of Bacharach’s songs performed by the composer, each digitally re-mastered from the original master tapes, culled mostly from his solo albums for A&M. Rhino Records released “The Very Best of Burt Bacharach” in March, 2001, featuring tracks with artists including Warwick, Dusty Springfield, The Carpenters and Jackie DeShannon. Bacharach enjoyed a top Ten CD in the U.K with the Warner Music International release of “The Look of Love: The Burt Bacharach Collection.” Krall’s 2001 album, “The Look of Love,” garnered widespread critical praise and resided at #1 on the jazz charts for a full year.

There’s more: GQ Magazine awarded Bacharach its “GQ Inspiration Award,” in September, 2005. In December, 2002, Bacharach was a recipient of the National Academy Of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) New York Heroes Award. Bacharach was also the recipient of the prestigious Polar Music Prize, presented in Stockholm by His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, in 2001. PEOPLE MAGAZINE named him one of the “Sexiest Men Alive” in 2000, and one of the “50 Most Beautiful People” in 1999. Bacharach served as the co-musical director of the 72nd Academy Awards in 2000. Petula Clark, Costello and Warwick all gave performances at a tribute to Bacharach and David at the Royal Albert Hall later in 2000, where the songwriting duo picked up the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award.

Bacharach’s 1998 collaboration with Costello (“Painted From Memory”) on Mercury Records earned a Grammy Award for the single “I Still Have That Other Girl.” In April, 1998, TNT launched its highly-acclaimed “TNT Masters Series” with “Bacharach: One Amazing Night,” a special tribute show with many of today's hottest stars – including Costello, Crow, Judd and Myers – performing his songs. Rhino had earlier released a three-CD Greatest Hits collection in 1998, “The Look of Love: The

Burt Bacharach Collection.” In 1997, Bacharach and David received the Trustees Award from NARAS on the Grammy Awards broadcast. He was the subject of a PBS “Great Performances” biography, “Burt Bacharach: This is Now,” which aired in May, 1997.

Of course, Bacharach has also enjoyed a celebrated career in film as well. His compositions include “Alfie” (1966); “What’s New Pussycat?” (1965; the title song was a million-seller for Tom Jones); “Casino Royale” (1967; “The Look Of Love” was gold for Springfield and Sergio Mendes and Brasil ’66, and was a Top 10 hit for Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass); “Arthur (Best That You Can Do)” (1981; the picture’s theme won the Academy Award for Best Song); “Night Shift” (1982); “Making Love” (1982); “Baby Boom” (1987); and the film for which Bacharach received two Academy Awards *and* a Grammy award, “Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid” (1969), where “Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head” first appeared.

Other Bacharach-enriched films include “Spiderman-Man 2” (2004); “Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason” (2004); the three “Austin Powers” movies; and the Grammy-nominated Elvis Costello collaboration “God Give Me Strength” (from 1996’s “Grace Of My Heart”). The Platinum-selling soundtrack from “My Best Friend’s Wedding” featured several Bacharach songs, with interpretations by Ani DiFranco (“Wishin’ and Hopin’”) and Diana King, whose recording of “I Say A Little Prayer” hit the top of the charts. His compositions continue to be heard in many films. “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ On My Head” resonated in “The In-Laws” (2003) and “Clockwatchers” (1997); and “The Look Of Love” was heard in “Catch Me If You Can” (2002), “Two Weeks Notice” (2002) and “Beautiful Creatures” (2000). Bacharach paired with lyricist Tim Rice for “Walkin’ Tall,” performed by Lyle Lovett for the film “Stuart Little” (1999); “Wives And Lovers” appeared in “The First Wives Club” (1996); “What The World Needs Now Is Love” and “Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head” in “Forrest Gump” (1996); “(There’s) Always Something There To Remind Me” was in “Romy and Michele’s High School Reunion” (1997), and “This Guy’s In Love With You” played a role in “One Fine Day” (1996).

Broadway has also beckoned. Bacharach broke new ground stylistically and won a Grammy Award for his collaboration with David on the hit musical (and cast recording of) 1969's "Promises, Promises."

His music in the 1980s made as much of an impact as his early work. Two of the songs Bacharach co-wrote and co-produced with lyricist Carole Bayer Sager – "That's What Friends Are For" and "On My Own" – captured the #1 positions on three of the most prominent year-end record charts. Released by Dionne And Friends (Warwick, Elton John, Stevie Wonder and Gladys Knight), "That's What Friends Are For" won a Grammy Award and holds a special place in Bacharach's heart for another reason: the writers and artists involved donated all the proceeds from the song to the American Foundation for AIDS Research, with funds raised exceeding \$1.5 million. "On My Own," recorded by Patti LaBelle and McDonald, was nominated for a Grammy and became the #1 R&B song of 1986.

A third song, "Heartlight" (1982), a collaboration with Neil Diamond was inspired by the film "E.T.," and Bacharach and Sager later named one of their Eclipse-winning horses Heartlight No. One. Other 1980s hits include "Love Power," one of the Bacharach-Sager songs written and produced for Warwick's "Reservations For Two" album; "Everchanging Times," recorded by Siedah Garrett for the film "Baby Boom"; "Over You," by Natalie Cole and Ray Parker, Jr.; "Love Always," by El DeBarge, and "They Don't Make Them Like They Used To," a country hit nominated for a Golden Globe, recorded by Kenny Rogers for the film "Tough Guys."

Bacharach might have also been expected to be a good writer, as the only son of the late nationally-syndicated columnist Bert Bacharach. From an early age, though, he demonstrated more interest with musical notes than with words. Most of his songs have been collaborations with wordsmiths, including many written with David. That particular pairing resulted in scores of Top 10 records – with Warwick alone – Bacharach and David scored an incredible string of 39 chart records in ten years.

Bacharach started taking piano lessons while in elementary school. His family had moved from Missouri to New York, where he spent most of his youth. An avid fan of bebop music, Bacharach was influenced by such legends as Dizzy Gillespie and

Charlie Parker, two musicians he credits with having a major impact on his career.

After graduating from high school, Bacharach studied at McGill University, the New School for Social Research in New York and Mannes School of Music. His training included music composition with such famous teachers as Darius Milhaud, Boguslav Martinu and Henry Cowell.

He began his career as a conductor and arranger, and toured widely for three years as accompanist-conductor for the legendary Marlene Dietrich beginning in 1958. As a teenager, he was composing songs, and by the late 1950s some of his songs were hitting the charts in performances by artists from different segments of the popular music field. Perry Como had a hit with “Magic Moments.” He wrote a number of country-rock classics for Gene Pitney and Marty Robbins. Soon afterwards, he established himself as one of the music industry's top writer/producers, working with singers like Chuck Jackson and, of course, Warwick.

Although his first love remains writing, Bacharach feels performing is another bonus of his illustrious career. He continues to do scores of concerts around the world each year. He is one artist who will always remain in the limelight no matter what endeavor he pursues.

Burt Bacharach's compositions include:

“Alfie”
“Any Day Now”
“Anyone Who Had A Heart”
“The April Fools”
“Are You There With Another Girl”
“Baby It's You”
“Blue On Blue”
“Close To You”
“Do You Know The Way To San Jose”
“Don't Make Me Over”
“Don't Say Goodbye Girl”
“Everchanging Times”
“Finder Of Lost Loves”
“Go Ask Shakespeare”

“God Give Me Strength”
“Heartlight”
“Here I Am”
“A House Is Not A Home”
“I Just Don't Know What To Do With Myself”
“I Say A Little Prayer”
“I'll Never Fall In Love Again”
“In Between The Heartache”
“The Look Of Love”

Bacharach compositions continued...

“Love Always”
“Love Power”
“Magic Moments”
“Make It Easy On Yourself”
“Making Love”
“The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance”
“Message To Michael”
“My Little Red Book”
“On My Own”
“One Less Bell To Answer”
“Only Love Can Break A Heart”
“Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head”
“The Story Of My Life”
“Sunny Weather Lover”
“There's Always Something There To Remind Me”
“This Guy's In Love With You”
“Tower Of Strength”
“Trains and Boats and Planes”
“Twenty-Four Hours From Tulsa”
“Walk On By”
“What The World Needs Now Is Love”
“Who Are These People”
“The Windows Of The World”
“Wishin' And Hopin'”
“Wives and Lovers”

Film Scores - A Sampling:

“Alfie”
“Arthur”
“Butch Cassidy & The Sundance Kid”

“Casino Royale”
“Isn’t She Great?”
“Night Shift”
“What’s New Pussycat?”

Academy Awards:

“Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head” - Best Song (1969)
“Butch Cassidy & The Sundance Kid” - Best Score (1969)
“Arthur's Theme (Best That You Can Do)” - Best Song (1981)

Grammy Awards:

“Alfie” - Best Instrumental Arrangement (1967)
“Butch Cassidy & The Sundance Kid” - Best Original Score For A Motion Picture (1969)
“Promises, Promises” - Best Score From An Original Cast Show Album (1969)
“That’s What Friends Are For” - Song Of The Year (1986)
“I Still Have That Other Girl” – Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals with Elvis Costello (1998)
“At This Time” – Best Instrumental Pop Album (2005)
The Trustees Award with collaborator Hal David (1997)

Recent Releases Featuring Bacharach’s Works:

“At This Time” (Columbia Records/SonyBMG)
“Burt Bacharach – Something Big” (Hip-O Select/Universal)
“Here I Am: Ronald Isley Meets Burt Bacharach” (DreamWorks/Interscope)
“The Very Best of Burt Bacharach” (Rhino)
“What The World Needs Now: Burt Bacharach Classics” (A&M/UME)
“The Look of Love: The Burt Bacharach Collection” (Warner Music International)
“20th Century Masters: The Best of Burt Bacharach” (Universal/A&M)
“Painted From Memory” with Elvis Costello (Mercury Records)
“The Look of Love: The Burt Bacharach Collection” (Rhino)
“Burt Bacharach: One Amazing Night” (N2K Encoded Music)
“The Music of Burt Bacharach” (McCoy Tyner for Impulse!)
“Loungapalooza” (Hollywood Records)
“Great Jewish Music: Burt Bacharach” (Tzadik)

Representative Movie Soundtracks Featuring Bacharach’s Works:

“Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason” (Universal) featuring "Magic Moments" and
"What the World Needs Now is Love"

“Catch Me If You Can” – (DreamWorks) featuring “The Look of Love”
“The In-Laws” – (Warner Strategic) featuring “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ On My Head”
“Austin Powers in Goldmember” – (Maverick) featuring “Alfie (What’s It All About, Austin?)”
“Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery” (Hollywood Records) – featuring “What the World Needs Now Is Love”
“Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me” (Maverick) – featuring “I’ll Never Fall In Love Again”
“Stuart Little” (Universal/Motown) – “Walkin’ Tall”
“Forrest Gump” (Epic) – “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ on my Head”, “What the World Needs Now Is Love”
“My Best Friend’s Wedding” (Sony) – “I Say A Little Prayer”, “Wishin’ and Hopin’”
“The First Wives Club” (Work Group) – “Wives and Lovers”

Representative Movie Soundtracks continued...

“Romy and Michele’s High School Reunion” (Hollywood Records) – “Always Something There to Remind Me”
77“Grace of My Heart” (Universal/MCA) – “God Give Me Strength”
“One Fine Day” (Columbia) – “This Guy’s In Love with You”

Selected Quotes

*“One man took a valiant stand for justice.”
THE NATION, February, 2006*

*“Grammy winner for best pop instrumental album,[Bacharach] explaining the uncharacteristic political bent to his latest release, ‘At This Time,’ ‘I never liked to be lied to by a girlfriend or agent and certainly not the president of the United States.’”
NEWSWEEK, February, 2006*

*“Bacharach has of late seen his artistic stock go blue chip, with everyone from Austin Powers to Elvis Costello appreciating his breezy hits for the harmonic and rhythmic marvels they are.”
THE BOSTON GLOBE, December, 2005*

*“...deploying Dr. Dre’s drum loops on several tracks, Bacharach brings together deceptively light jazz, contemporary chill-out grooves and his own jet-setter sophistication. [Elvis] Costello lends an almost operatic cameo to the corporation-skewering, ‘Who Are These People’....”
ROLLING STONE, November 3, 2005*

"Each song... is deftly linked to the next through a shared lyric as Bacharach courses through emotions from confusion to indignation to resignation to realization. It's his melodies and harmonies – jarringly dissonant one minute, aching melancholy the next – that get the panoply of human feeling across."

LOS ANGELES TIMES, October 30, 2005

"Under the flawless production, it's as raw as Bacharach gets, and there's no doubting the sincerity of his indignation."

Burt Bacharach: protest singer. The times, they are a-changing."

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, October 30, 2005

"Bacharach's classic songs may sound breezy, but don't be fooled by the soothing flugelhorn. As anyone who's ever tried to warble, 'Promises, Promises' can testify, Bacharach's melodies are daring, his rhythms capricious."

The man's grasp of meter and form veers toward the downright exotic."

THE BOSTON GLOBE, May, 2005

"...his upbeat songs and brilliant music career seem the definition of the philosophy 'do what you love and success will follow,'"

THE DALLAS OBSERVER, March, 2005

"Bacharach with an Isley twist – Their new album delivers striking takes of the composer's work"

LOS ANGELES TIMES, November, 2003

"What took them so long? That's the only question remaining after listening to the glorious collaboration between Isley Brothers vocalist Ron Isley and songwriter Burt Bacharach"

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, November, 2003

R&B legend Isley's lithe, delicately soulful voice is ideally suited to the material on this cd."

USA TODAY, November 2003

"Bacharach has become a pop culture icon."

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS, September, 2003

"Burt: The World Needs Him Now"

BILLBOARD, September, 2003

"Here was an AM genius with soulful FM ambitions – and the skill and education to know how to realize them."

LA WEEKLY, August, 2003

"The songs of Burt Bacharach and Hal David are timeless classics boasting intricate, endlessly facile melodies and wonderfully inventive lyrics."
THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER, May, 2003

"Their [Bacharach and David] song titles read like a catalogue of contemporary pop's golden era...."
USA TODAY, May, 2003

"...a man who launched a thousand hits...."
THE INDEPENDENT (U.K.), July, 2002

"...popular music's magic man hasn't missed a beat."
THE EDMONTON SUN, January, 2002

"Bacharach reminded us why he endures as pop's reigning melodist at a concert last night...."
THE OTTAWA CITIZEN, October, 2001

"He personifies the word 'unruffled,' and no one over the last 40 years has written more or better pop songs."
VANITY FAIR, November, 2000

"As a presence in the last half-century of music history, he's simply inescapable."
THE PHOENIX NEW TIMES, October, 2000

"He is the greatest American composer since George Gershwin and the closest to Gershwin anyone born in the second half of the 20th Century is ever going to see."
ARIZONA TRIBUNE, October, 2000

It's no wonder Burt Bacharach is spoken of with such famous names as Cole Porter and Richard Rodgers. His hit-single track record runs the gamut from rock and soul to polished Broadway scores; few writers can match the golden era of his work."
THE DENVER POST, September, 2000

"It is rare that a music segment of an Oscar show gets a standing ovation but this one orchestrated by Burt Bacharach certainly deserved it...."
DAILY VARIETY, March, 2000

"Bacharach's program also pointed to an influence on modern music that's so pervasive it's virtually subliminal...his songs never went out of style, and they never will."
LOS ANGELES TIMES, October, 1998

*“The Burt Bacharach revival has proven
the composer’s sophisticated style of pop, film music to be ageless.”
VARIETY, October, 1998*

*“It was 10 o’clock on a Saturday night, and several hundred people were...having a
religious experience: Burt Bacharach was giving a miniconcert.”
NEW YORK TIMES, October, 1998*

*“Bacharach is currently enjoying greater popularity than at any other time
since his heyday in the 1960s and early 70s...
In fact, Hollywood has been Bacharach’s biggest promoter.”
TIME Magazine, July, 1997*

*“Mr. Bacharach is cool. It isn’t just that his audience today is more sophisticated; it’s
that there is a yearning for the lush sophistication that Mr. Bacharach stands for.”
NEW YORK TIMES, July, 1997*

*“Bacharach’s suave melodies have crawled into the consciousness in the same
seductive way they first did.”
ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY, August, 1997*

*“Bacharach has seen his name become synonymous with the craft of songwriting at its
most elegant and imperiled. He is a cultural signifier... With no apparent effort on his
part he has become a figure of cult admiration.”
THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY, June, 1997*

*“‘God Give Me Strength’ [is] an epic in triple time, six minutes long, the best thing
Bacharach has done in years....”
VANITY FAIR, October, 1996*

*“The pearl is ‘God Give Me Strength’ by Bacharach and Elvis Costello. Broody and
complex, it suggests a tune Bacharach might have given
Dionne Warwick to sing in an uptown nightclub at 3 a.m.”
TIME, October 7, 1996*

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