

MARIO GRIGOROV

COMPOSER

Mario Grigorov is a Bulgarian-born film and television composer and concert pianist. A musical prodigy from the age of five, he became one of the youngest students ever admitted to the Sofia Conservatory. He went on to study music in four different countries before the age of eighteen, becoming an accomplished concert pianist and improviser in the styles of jazz, classical and electronic music.

FILMED ENTERTAINMENT CAREER:

In 2014 Mario met with *Harry Potter* director David Yates and was invited to work on a Warner Bros film starring Margot Robbie, Samuel L. Jackson and Christoph Waltz. He has gone on to work with Yates on his much anticipated Warner Brothers film, **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them**, and composed and co-wrote an original song with one of the most famous writers in the world, *Harry Potter* author, J.K. Rowling.

Some of his most recognizable film work comes from his long-standing collaboration with Academy Award-winning director Lee Daniels, who created the smash TV show, *Empire*. Working with Daniels, Mario has scored **Shadowboxer**, **Tennessee**, the Academy Award-winning **Precious**, and **The Paperboy**, starring Nicole Kidman. Other film scores include the supernatural thriller, **Beyond**, starring Academy-award nominee Jon Voight, who went on to say, "Mario is a master at his craft and delivered a score that elevated the movie to another level." Acclaimed director Susan Seidelman said of Mario's score for her dramatic romance, **Musical Chairs**, "Not only is he a brilliant composer and musician, but he is a great collaborative partner, always putting the artistic and emotional needs of the movie first without compromising his own vision."

Forays into television film work saw the creation of an eerie yet gorgeous score to Lifetime's Original Movie series cult classic, **Flowers in the Attic**, based on the all-time best-selling novel of the same name, and its sequel **Petals on the Wind**, starring Heather Graham and Ellen Burstyn.

International scores include **Patang** by Indian director Prashant Bhargava, **The Hopes and Dreams of Gazza Snell** by New Zealand director Brendan Donovan, Uruguayan director Leonardo Ricagni's films **29 Palms**, **Feathers to the Sky** and **The Life Jacket Is Under Your Seat** for which Mario was awarded Best Original Score at the Hamptons Film Festival, and more recently, **Our Boys**.

Mario's documentary credits include the festival favorite **Third Wave: A Volunteer Story** presented by Sean Penn, the Anna Halpern biographical film **Breath Made Visible** by filmmaker Ruedi Gerber, and the war documentary **Taxi to the Darkside** by Alex Gibney, which won a 2008 Academy Award for best Documentary.

HISTORY OF THE ARTIST:

Born in Sofia, Bulgaria to a concert trumpeter father and concert pianist mother, Mario was exposed to multiple cultures and musical styles due to his family's relocation to Iran and then to East Germany, where he first listened to Deep Purple, Black Sabbath and Led Zeppelin, whose music helped him understand the potential for pure improvisation.

Exposure to popular music with a strong instrumental component had sown the seeds, but it took the city of Vienna, Austria where Mario studied performance and composition at the Vienna Conservatorium, to water them. "There was simply so much music happening there. It was very free and open. For the first time I really began rebelling against the strictures of classical music. I was interested in something that expressed more of my own vision."

Sydney, Australia was the next stop, where Mario studied electronic music at the New South Wales Conservatorium and went on to become a producer, arranger and programmer for a variety of Australian jazz and rock groups. He soon began to compose musical scores for television shows and films and worked with the BBC on a series of documentaries.

With his film scoring ramping up, Mario moved to Los Angeles under the tutelage of film composer Miles Goodman. Within four days of Mario's arrival, Warner Brothers Records A&R executive Bob James overheard him deep in a musical trance at a Disklavier piano, accompanying himself on an improvisational journey in a music store. James left with a five-track on-the-spot demo, and Mario inked his first major-label recording contract days later. The result: **Rhymes with Orange**, Mario's debut album of astonishing improvisations blending his extensive classical training, the head-banging years of East Germany, and the Bulgarian and Cyrillic folk music he absorbed as a child.

Mario toured **Rhymes with Orange**, supporting icons such as Wynton Marsalis, Joshua Redman, Charlie Haden and Béla Fleck. **Aria** came next on Profile Records. Another exercise in stylistic crossovers and combinations, **Aria** combined Mario's darker, funkier, ambient side with operatic anthems from *Carmen*, *The Magic Flute*, *Madame Butterfly* and *Dido and Aeneas*. **Aria** reached no. 4 on Billboard's Top Classical Crossover chart. Mario's playful recording **Paris to Cuba** (2009) draws from his work in film scoring, combining diverse world music influences.

Mario moved on to New York for 15 years, founding a music production company and expanding into audio branding for major advertising campaigns, before returning to Los Angeles to focus on his film career. In 2014 he returned to live back and forth between Berlin, Germany and the United Kingdom. Mario now resides between London and Los Angeles with his family.

In addition to composing and playing piano, Mario indulges in ambidextrous creative outlets such as his simultaneous two-handed symmetrical drawings. He has also developed an experimental type of keyboard play known as Mirror Tones™, a creative interpretation of the fundamental structure of the piano keyboard.

FILM

THE EVIL WITHIN

Supernova LLC / Vision Films
Director: Andrew Getty

ANOTHER MOTHER'S SON

Bill Kenwright Films
Director: Christopher Menaul

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM (writer/producer "Blind Pig")

Warner Bros / Heyday Films
Director: David Yates

OUT IN THE NIGHT

The Fire This Time
Director: Blair Doroshwalther

SQUATTERS

Kelly / Todd Moyer Prod. / Wakefield International Pictures
Director: Martin Weisz

DRACULA: THE DARK PRINCE	Crystal Sky / Castel Film Romania Director: Perry Teo
CRAZY KIND OF LOVE	Smokewood Entertainment Group Director: Sara Siegel-Magness
OUR BOYS	Migrante Content Director: Leonardo Ricagni
THE PAPERBOY	Lee Daniels Entertainment Group / Millennium Films Director: Lee Daniels
59 MIDDLE LANE	UNEAC Films Director: Greg Ammon
THE ANDERSON MONARCHS	Circus Road Films Director: Eugene Martin
BEYOND	Crystal Sky / Ghost Vision Director: Josef Rusnak
THE STORY TELLER	Rock Productions / Asupernova LLC. Director: Andrew Getty
MUSICAL CHAIRS	Dream Dance Films Director: Susan Seidelman
OFF-RAMP	Untitled Director: Natasha Johns-Messenger
PATANG	Khushi Films Director: Preshant Bhargava
THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF GAZZA SNELL	Eyeworks Touchdown Director: Brendan Donovan
MALICE N' WONDERLAND THE MOVIE	Sugar Rush Media Director: Erick Peyton
JACKSON PARISH	Untitled Director: Edward McDonald
BREATH MADE VISIBLE: ANNE HALPRIN	ZAS Films Director: Ruedi Gerber
PRECIOUS (based on novel by Sapphire)	Lee Daniels Entertainment Director: Lee Daniels
WAR AGAINST THE WEAK	Endless Films Director: Justin Strawhand
TEN: THIRTY ONE	Alternative Reality Director: Lev Gorn and Gabe Fazio
TENNESSEE	Lee Daniels Entertainment / Vivendi Entertainment Director: Aaron Woodley
ACCELERATING AMERICA	Parrott Hill Productions Director: Tim Hotchner

THE ATTIC	Intrinsic Value Films Director: Mary Lambert
FEATHERS TO THE SKY	True Cinema Director: Leonardo Ricagni
TAXI TO THE DARKSIDE	Jigsaw Productions Director: Alex Gibney
LAWS OF NATURE	Jigsaw Productions Director: Alex Gibney
THE THIRD WAVE	Endless Films Director: Alison Thompson
THE INSURGENTS	Angel Baby Entertainment Director: Scott Dacko
SHADOWBOXER	Lee Daniels Entertainment Director: Lee Daniels
THE AMERICANS	Abtwaves Production Director: Michael Abt
RESCUE	Abtwaves Production Director: Michael Abt
29 PSALMS	Artisan Director: Leonardo Ricagni
THE LIFE JACKET IS UNDER YOUR SEAT	Mojo Director: Leonardo Ricagni
	Best Original Score at the Hamptons Film Festival
GRASP	Neogine Director: Brendan Donovan
HERE	Neogine Director: Brendan Donovan
RAZOR'S EDGE	Vegabond Director: Lorenzo Benedick
EDGE CITY	City Story Pictures Director: Eugene Martin

TELEVISION

HARRY BENSON: SHOOT FIRST	Quixotic Endeavors Directors: Justin Bare, Matthew Miele
PETALS ON THE WIND	A+E Studios / Cue The Dog Productions Director: Karen Moncrieff

FLOWERS IN THE ATTIC

Cue The Dog Productions
Director: Deborah Chow

UNTITLED JERSEY CITY PROJECT

FX Networks
Director: Daniel Minahan

SEASONS OF LOVE

Game 7 Films
Director: Princess Filmz