

Mark Isham - Official Biography

From his days as one of the pioneering icons of electronic music to his current status as a world-renowned legendary film composer, Mark Isham continues to be one of the most prolific and provocative artists on the scene. His gift for creating unforgettable melodies and his love of fresh, innovative sonic palettes have earned Isham many awards including a Grammy, an Emmy, and a Clio, in addition to multiple Grammy, Academy Award and Golden Globe nominations for his material both as a composer and a recording artist. Most recently, Mark was honored by ASCAP with the Henry Mancini Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Isham states, “I create emotion through music...whether it’s high or low, anger or passion, exhilaration or death, denial or lust, motion or solitude. And when I can take a person on this journey through film or recordings, there’s nothing more addicting, nor satisfying.”



Isham’s musical signature is evident in his memorable scores for such notable films as *Crash*, awarded the Oscar for Best Picture in 2005 (Isham's score was named Best Soundtrack of 2005 by Cinescape.com), *Bobby*, nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Picture, and *The Black Dahlia*, with its critically lauded jazz noir soundtrack (awarded Best Score for a Drama Film - 2007, and nominated for Best Score of the Year by the International Film Music Critics Association). Other highlights include *Eight Below*, *The Cooler*, *A River Runs Through It*, *Blade*, *Nell*, *Men of Honor*, and *The Secret Life of Bees*.

His list of collaborators in film is a veritable who’s who of the entertainment industry – Robert Redford, Tom Cruise, Brian De Palma, Chick Corea, Jodi Foster, Robert Altman, Sting, Wil.I.Am, Sydney Lumet, Mick Jagger and too many more to name. Paul Haggis says “I merely asked him, each time, to completely forget everything he has ever done and reinvent himself, from the tips of his toes to where his fingers meet the keyboard. And he has never failed to do so. Listen and see if you don’t agree.” Robert Redford remarks “Mark is a man who really lives his craft...One of the most attractive features about Mark is that he knows how to keep things simple. I like music that is subtle but still supports the drama and is there for a reason, and Mark did that so beautifully.”

As a performing artist, Mark has added his unique sound – melodic, moody, sexy and cool – to a wide variety of genres. He has graced the albums of such diverse artists as Bruce Springsteen, Willie Nelson, Lyle Lovett, Ziggy Marley, Joni Mitchell, The Rolling Stones, Chris Isaak, and Van Morrison. His solo recordings span from electronica and classic jazz to hip-hop and ethnic world music, receiving worldwide critical acclaim including Grammy nominations for his albums *Castalia* and *Tibet*, and a win for his Virgin Records release, *Mark Isham*.

No matter the genre, medium, or venue, Mark Isham displays a boundless ability to electrify the listener with his talent for crafting evocative new musical worlds.

Awards

- 2008** International Film Music Critics Association Award – **Nominated** for Film Composer of the Year
International Film Music Critics Association Award – **Nominated** for Film Music Composition of the Year for “Last Shift” from *Lions for Lambs*
- 2007** Hollywood Film Festival Award – **Won** Composer of the Year Award
International Film Music Critics Association Award - **Won** for Best Score for a Drama Film for *The Black Dahlia*
ASCAP Film and Television Music Award - **Won** for Top Box Office Films for *Eight Below*
International Film Music Critics Association Award - **Nominated** for Film Score of the Year for *The Black Dahlia*
- 2006** ASCAP Film and Television Music Award - Henry Mancini Award for Lifetime Achievement
Vision Award - **Won** Composer of Vision Award for *Crash*
- 2005** AFI Award - **Won** for *Crash*
- 2002** Grammy Award - **Nominated** for Best Score Soundtrack Album for a Motion Picture, Television or Other Visual Media for *Men of Honor*
- 2000** ASCAP Film and Television Music Award - **Won** for Top TV Series for *Family Law*
- 1999** ASCAP Film and Television Music Award - **Won** for Top Box Office Films for *Blade*
- 1998** Emmy Award - **Nominated** for Outstanding Main Title Theme Music for *Nothing Sacred*
- 1997** Emmy Award - **Won** for Outstanding Main Title Theme for *EZ Streets*
- 1996** Emmy Award - **Nominated** for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Main Title Theme Music for *Chicago Hope*
- 1995** Emmy Award - **Nominated** for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Main Title Theme Music for *Chicago Hope*
Golden Globe - **Nominated** Best Original Score - Motion Picture for *Nell*
- 1994** Grammy Award - **Nominated** for Best Instrumental Composition Written for a Motion Picture or for Television for *A River Runs Through It*
Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films - **Nominated** for Saturn Award, Best Music for *Fire in the Sky*
- 1993** Academy Award - **Nominated** for Best Music, Original Score for *A River Runs Through It*
- 1992** Grammy Award - **Nominated** for Best Album for Children for *The Emperor’s New Clothes*
Movieline Great Movie Music Award - **Won**
- 1990** Grammy Award - **Won** for Best New Age Album for *Mark Isham*
- 1989** Grammy Award - **Nominated** for Best New Age Performance for *Tibet*
Grammy Award - **Nominated** for Best Album for Children for *Thumbelina*
- 1988** Los Angeles Film Critics Association Award - **Won** Best Music for *The Moderns*
Grammy Award - **Nominated** for Best New Age Performance for *Castalia*
Grammy Award - **Nominated** for Best Album for Children for *The Emperor and the Nightingale*