

## Michael J McEvoy - Biography

Michael is an American musician and composer based in London. Best known for his jazz score in Richard Linklater's *Me and Orson Welles* starring Zac Efron and Claire Danes, Michael has a great many film, television and pop music credits to his name.

A self-taught guitarist and bass player, Michael studied piano and viola at the Centre for Young Musicians and Leeds College of Music. His interest in improvisation led him to work aged 17 in Dick Heckstall-Smith's band, Big Chief and at the same time, he was mentored by the legendary African conga drummer, Reebop Kwaku Bah (Jimmy Cliff, Traffic, Rolling Stones).

His first break came aged 20 when Ian Dury hired Michael to co-write and arrange his album *Four Thousand Week's Holiday*, followed by projects with Scritti Politti 'Songs to Remember', Orange Juice 'Rip it up' and Nina Hagen's *In Ekstase*.

Throughout the 1980s Michael wrote and performed with leading pop acts including teenybop idols, Curiosity Killed the Cat and Soul II Soul. He performed live and recorded in the studio with Sting, The Bee Gees, Mark Morrison and many others. He has also had a long association with Steve Winwood, touring with him in his seminal rock band, Traffic, in 1994 and afterwards became his Musical Director until 1998.

In the 1990s Michael wrote songs with Teena Marie (*Since Day One*), The James Taylor Quartet (*Sunshine of Your Smile*), Patrice Rushen (*Caravan*) and DJ Wookie (*Back Up, Back Up # 2* in UK dance charts). His credits as a producer include the 'rare groove' club classic *Try My Love* by Lalomie Washburn, co-producer JTQ album *Supernatural* and London funk band Push.

Michael's first experience of writing music for film was for Beeban Kidron's debut feature *Vroom* starring Clive Owen and David Thewlis, followed by *The Bearskin - An Urban Fairytale* starring Tom Waits. His music also featured in a number of major documentaries including the BAFTA winning *J'accuse*, *Equinox: Fly Navy*, *Dog's World* and *Battle of the Hood and Bismarck*.

Returning to the USA in 1998, Michael composed music for over 20 long form documentaries for Biography Channel, History Channel and PBS. During this time he received three regional Emmy nominations and was awarded the Emmy in January 2004 for Best Instrumental Music for his work on *Tennessee Yearbook* narrated by Isaac Hayes. While in the USA, he studied composition with Professor Michael Alec Rose, and conducting with Lyn Bingham at Blair School of Music (Vanderbilt University).

He returned to London in 2003 to study Composition for Screen at the Royal College of Music where he was the Performing Rights Society's Sir Arthur Bliss Memorial Scholar. In October 2005 he received his Masters in Music

degree and was awarded the Joseph Horovitz Prize in Composition for Screen, the first time it had been awarded since 2001. From 2005-08, Michael was a Professor of Composition at the Royal College of Music, London in the role Area Leader, Composition for Screen.

During this time he scored several prime-time documentaries: *French Beauty*, *Storyville* (BBC2) and *E=mc<sup>2</sup>* (PBS / US title, *Einstein's Big Idea*) a feature length drama documentary produced by Darlow/Smithson and WGBH.

Michael has also collaborated with the renowned DJ, Paul Oakenfold on a number of film scores including the award-winning Japanese anime feature, *Vexille*, directed by Fumihiko Sori and in 2008 they scored *Nothing Like the Holidays*, starring John Leguizamo and Alfred Molina, which was a surprise Christmas hit (No. 7 in the US box office charts) in December 2008.

2010 saw Michael compose the music for a 20 part children's series for Nickelodeon UK '*Summer In Transylvania*', and two Indie features, *Forget Me Not*, winner of London Independent Film Festival directed by Lance Roehrig and Alex Holt, and *Just Ines*, directed by Marcel Grant starring French actress Caroline Ducey.

Michael's own album, *Terra Cognita*, featuring the Brazilian percussionist Airtó Moreira, was released in June 2010 on German Jazz label C.A.R.E. Music Group GmbH and has just been released in the UK on Proper Note.

Additional details about Michael's professional activities can be found on his website at: <http://www.michaeljmcevoy.com>

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