

Panelist/Mentor/Teacher Bios

TAXI Road Rally 2026

Adam Zelkind is an eight-time award-winning songwriter/composer/producer. He has created cutting-edge music for more than 2,600 television episodes, feature films, records, and ads. His awards include ASCAP's Most Performed Music on Television for two consecutive years. He has worked with artists and writers such as, Kenny Loggins, Glen Phillips (Toad The Wet Sprocket), Tom Higgenson (Plain White T's), Jason Mraz, Kristian Bush (Sugarland), Sons of Legion, Ashley Gorley, Sara Watkins (Nickel Creek), Amy Stroup, Chris Gelbuda, Bret James, Big Al Anderson, Josh Kelly, Walt Aldridge, Darryl Worley, Gary Burr, Meghan Lindsey (The Voice), Spectre Jones, Will Champlin, Dustin Christensen, Katie Herzig, Rob Kleiner. He wrote and produced 8 songs, as well as the featured end credits song for the film "*The Big Ugly*" on which he also served as the film's executive music producer. His work has become a prominent force on many shows including the hit CW-show *Hart Of Dixie*, having had 20 songs featured on this show. Some of his other credits include: *Brothers Under Fire* with Kiefer Sutherland, *The Bondsman*, end credits for *The Leftovers*, *911 Project Harmony*, Promos for College Football, *Criminal Minds*, *Hannibal*, *Law & Order*, *True Blood*, *Selena*, *The Family Stone*, *Silence of The Lambs*, *Top Secret Recipe*, *Rock of Love*, *Flavor of Love*, *I Love Money*, *Real Chance of Love*, *The Surreal Life*, *From G's to Gents*, *I Love New York*, *Charm School*, *My Fair Brady*, *Out Back Jack*, *Next Action Star*, *Teen Mom*, *Below Deck*, *Beverly Hills 90201*, and *The Steve Harvey Show*. Many of his songs can be heard in films including the critically acclaimed film *Disconnect*, *Marine Home Front 3*, and 10 songs as the End Credits songs for *Slumber Party Slaughter*, *No Manches Frida*, and *Can't Have You*. Adam also serves on the Advisory Council for the Hawaii Songwriting Festival.

Aaron Overton is an LA-based music business professional, A&R executive, producer, engineer, songwriter, and educator who's worked extensively across both the creative and business sides of music. As an executive with Streetlamp Records, Polychord Records, and TAXI Music A&R team member, he helps turn creative works into opportunities, effective releases, and sustainable artist careers. His specialties include A&R, artist development, label operations, release strategy, digital marketing, sync licensing, rights administration, royalty collection, and catalog management. Aaron has hundreds of credits spanning his work in A&R, production, engineering, mixing, management, songwriting, and performance, having worked with artists like Kirk Franklin, Maverick City Music, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, George Clinton, and more. He also teaches music production and music business courses at the Los Angeles Film School and Troy University and has presented at the TAXI Road Rally since 2023.

Ben McLane, Esq. is an entertainment attorney veteran focusing primarily on music, film/TV and social media, with many gold/platinum albums and Billboard Top 10 and #1 chart hits to his credit for his work. He has also been involved in artist management, talent scouting, promotions, and record label operations. Ben is the author of the book "Music Business In 10 Easy Lessons," and has been a speaker at prestigious industry conferences such as SXSW, NAMM, TAXI and NSAI. Ben has been an instructor of music business law & contracts at Los Angeles College of Music [LACM] in Pasadena, CA and Musicians Institute in Hollywood, CA. Ben is a 1991 graduate of Pepperdine Law School and lives and works in the Los Angeles area. More info at www.benmclane.com.

Biagio Messina is a Los Angeles-based filmmaker, television producer, editor, and composer whose work spans documentary, true crime, reality television, film, and podcasts. Alongside his wife and creative partner, Joke Fincioen, Messina owns and runs Joke Productions, an independent, network-approved production company through which the pair has produced hundreds of hours of television and film for CNN/HLN, HBO Max, Discovery+, Peacock, A&E, MTV, VH1, Oxygen, The CW, and other major networks and platforms. He earned his stripes as a showrunner and Co-Executive Producer on The CW's *Beauty and the Geek*, and his documentary experience includes serving as showrunner on nonfiction programming for acclaimed filmmaker R.J. Cutler. His credits include the acclaimed documentary *Dying to Do Letterman*, which he directed, produced, and edited with Fincioen. The film was selected by DocuWeeks to qualify for Academy Award consideration and won the Cleveland International Film Festival. His investigative work includes *Unmasking a Killer* for CNN/HLN and *Unraveled* for Discovery+, both of which contributed to the eventual arrests of serial killers, as well as the true crime series *Three Days to Live* for Oxygen. His unscripted credits range from VH1's *Scream Queens* to MTV's *Caged*. Messina also serves as an editor and composer on many of the company's projects, reflecting a career-long passion for experimenting with filmmaking technology and post-production craft.

Bob Mete is a composer and producer specializing in music for TV, film, and advertising. He works from his countryside studio in Earlsville, Virginia, just outside of Charlottesville. His go-to genres include solo piano, cocktail jazz, standard jazz, Sinatra-style jazz, and New Age. Bob is well known for his dedication to working with young jazz musicians in his local community. His music has appeared in more than 150 television shows and five major films. He also enjoys collaborating with many TAXI co-writers. In addition, Bob has had two jazz albums signed and released in Japan.

Bobby Rymer is the owner and general manager of the Nashville based music publishing company Writer's Den Music Group. Some of the artists who have recorded songs out of the catalog include Alan Jackson, Bonnie Raitt, Chris Stapleton, Rodney Crowell, LANCO, Alabama, Patrick Droney, and Ricky Skaggs, as well as Lindsay Ell's current single "I Don't Love You." Former catalog writers include Adam Wright, Bonnie Bishop, Drew Kennedy, Jerry Salley, Melissa Fuller, Tami Hinesh, Thom Schuyler and Trent Jeffcoat. Active writers currently on the roster include Gordon Kennedy, Brennen Leigh, Aubrey Shamel, and Noel McKay.

Casey Hurowitz is a successful TAXI member who writes for Film/TV. He has numerous songs signed to TAXI client music libraries. Casey's music has been heard on over 100 TV shows including *America's Got Talent*, *Chicago Fire*, *The Night Shift* (NBC), *The Young And The Restless*, *Salvation* (CBS), *Love is Blind* (Netflix), *The L Word: Generation Q* (Showtime), *Catfish*, *16 and Pregnant* (MTV), *Beverly Hills Nannies*, *The Fosters* (Freeform), *The Originals* (CW), *Nascar Raceday* (Fox Sports), *PGA Tour Golf* (Golf), *American Pickers*, *Pawn Stars* (History), *Auction Kings*, *Buying Alaska* (Discovery), *Giuliana Bill* (Style), *My First Home*, *Toddlers and Tiaras*, *Say Yes to the Dress* (TLC), *The Real Housewives of NYC*, *Flipping Out* (Bravo).

Charles Levan, owner and CEO of Blue Buddha Entertainment, has over 28 years of experience in the music industry. Charles' passion in the sync space is coupled with a focus on artist development, helping artists hone their musical craft in an ever-changing entertainment world. Over his career he has worked with the likes of Al Green, Ringo Starr, Nils Lofgren, Lenka, Flora Cash, Katie Cole and others. Charles is a member of the Los Angeles Recording Academy and has produced and moderated Sync Panels for NAMM, The Guild of Music Supervisors, and The Los Angeles Film School. He also teaches 'Sync Like a Pro Academy', an intensive online sync course and hosts 'SyncRiffs', a podcast dedicated to the craft of music supervision, composers, and artists.

Chris "Hot Rod" Long started out as a music journalist in 1989, became a concert promoter in 1990, and by 1991 had a major label A&R job on the strength of discovering Kyuss (Queens of the Stone Age), Rage Against the Machine, and Stone Temple Pilots. Chris discovered his biggest client Crossfade, who had the most played record of the year in the USA on Active and Alt Rock radio—through a TAXI listing when working at Fuel 2000/Sunset Blvd Records. Chris also discovered Christina Perri and was her first manager and his current clients include Travis Seal, Trent Rush and Miss Machina. He currently owns CHRIS LONG MGMT and is working with artists and producers in most genres. In early 2026 he became a Spotify playlist curator. His most successful playlists so far, created for marketing clients, are Americana Outlaws, Indie Pop Earworms, and NuGaze/ShoeGaze. You can find all of his playlists by searching Chris Long Mgmt. in the Spotify search bar.

Chuck Henry has a long list of credits that range across radio, television, commercials, and films, and his music has been used in over 13,000 episodes of 1,400+ television shows. He is the Founder and President of 10 West Music, a global music library with offices in Hollywood and Atlanta. The catalog is distributed in over 100 countries around the world and has a very diverse roster of 500+ composers, writers, and artists, many of whom are TAXI members found through TAXI listings, and even just being at the Rally. Beginning as a classically trained pianist at age six, his decades-long career has been that of a composer, producer, and publisher, as well as a recording artist on three record labels. Since 2007, he has produced and arranged the music for the glamorous shows of Dita Von Teese (world-renowned fashion icon and burlesque star). Aside from 10 West, this year he started a worldwide sports music label distributed by one of the top global music companies. As a composer, his music has been heard daily for years on reality shows, talk shows, news programs, game shows, documentaries, entertainment news, and dramas. He was also a long-time TAXI member who is among the first wave of members to selflessly share his knowledge and experience with newer members. Aside from being passionate about all styles of music, he is a fervent and die-hard Georgia Bulldogs fan. Go Dawgs!

Chuck Schlacter is a guitarist and composer living in Brentwood, Tennessee, just outside of Nashville. Schlacter graduated from SUNY at Oswego with a degree in music. He writes instrumental music for TV and film. Schlacter draws on his broad performance experience when composing. His compositions include world beat, orchestral, tension, jazz, gypsy jazz, and dramedy, as well as genres as diverse as film noir, spy music, spaghetti western, bossa nova and surf guitar. His music has been heard on Netflix, SyFy, Oxygen, Animal Planet, NBC, ABC, CBS, Fox, E!, Discovery, Discovery+, TLC, PBS, MTV and A&E. In 2013 Chuck started the production music library Opening Line Music. Starting with twelve composers, there are 72 composers on the roster today. The majority of composers on the roster are from relationships built through TAXI, primarily from the relationships started at the TAXI Rally. Opening Line Music is distributed globally by ten subpublishers. They represent the catalog in over fifty countries. In April of 2022, Top Line Vocals was launched with six albums. Today, there are eighteen albums covering many genres and styles.

Craig Pilo, originally from Connecticut, graduated from the University of North Texas in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in Music. After moving to Los Angeles in 1996, he began touring with famed trumpeter Maynard Ferguson in 1997 to promote his "One More Trip To Birdland" CD. Craig attributes his early success to some of his private teachers, Alan Dawson, Ed Soph, Dave Weckl, and Jeff Hamilton. Craig has since accumulated a big list of touring credits that include Frankie Valli, Edgar Winter, The Beach Boys, Jefferson Starship, Jersey Boys, Jordan Sparks, Billy Vera, Player (Baby Come Back), Pat Boone, Maxine Nightingale, and Deniece Williams. He also has a nice history of recording credits that include countless CDs, singles, TV, and movies that include *Ally McBeal*, *Boston Public*, *Sex in the City*, *CSI Miami*, *Malcolm in the Middle*, *Sabrina*, *The Osborne's*, and the *Movies Basic and Dirty Dancing II Havana Nights*. By 2010, after nearly 20 years of touring and 10 years tracking drums at his home studio, Craig expanded his home recording business to include composing and producing custom music for TV and Film. His music has been featured in hundreds of TV shows and a few films.

Derek Nakamoto is a veteran record producer and composer. He has spent 30 successful years making the recording industry more eclectic. Initially, he joined Sony/Epic recording artist Hiroshima as a band member and composer and was later chosen by French composer Michel Colombier to collaborate with singer Paul Anka. His list of pop credits includes Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston, Jermaine Jackson and Michael Bolton. Production credits include Teddy Pendergrass's comeback album "Truly Blessed" for EMI Records, "For the Love" for MCA artists The O'Jays as well as critically acclaimed debut records for Nicky Holland for Sony/Epic and Fernando Saunders "The Spin" for A&M. His international work includes legendary Angolan singer Waldemar Bastos "Classics of My Soul," featuring the London Symphony Orchestra and (Kodo singer) Yoko Fujimoto's debut album "Morissa Komorisa." Derek's long collaboration with contemporary jazz pianist Keiko Matsui spans 23 albums. "Doll," "Sapphire," and "Dreamwalk" solidified Keiko as a force in the Contemporary Jazz genre.

Geoff Siegel, Founder and CEO of Fundamental Music, began his career as a guitarist for Geffen artist, The Nymphs. He later moved into production and engineering for bands like Fu Manchu and Dramarama. In 1995, Geoff transitioned into A&R roles with Columbia, Giant, eMusic, and Curb Records, where he helped build an online soundtrack division. He also worked at SoundTrackSite, collaborating with labels, artists, and supervisors. In 2003, Geoff founded Fundamental Music, where he continues to lead the company today.

Greg Carrozza is a keyboardist, cellist, composer, songwriter, and music producer for television, film, and advertising. Known for his work in Pop, Hip Hop, Tension, Piano, Latin, and Orchestral music, his compositions have appeared in more than 1,000 productions across 100+ television networks and streaming platforms worldwide. His credits include *All American*, *Beat Bobby Flay*, *Chopped*, *Catfish*, *CNN Newsroom*, *Dancing with the Stars*, *Growing Up Hip Hop*, *Love Island*, *Pawn Stars*, *Queer Eye*, *The Real Housewives*, *Survivor*, *The L Word: Generation Q*, *Vanderpump Rules*, and *The Young and the Restless*. His music has also been featured during NFL, NBA, NHL, MLB, and WNBA broadcasts, including the *FIFA World Cup*, the *NFC Championship Game*, and the *MLB All-Star Game*, as well as international campaigns for Samsung, Hyundai, Chase, and L'Oréal. A Philadelphia native and Drexel University graduate, Greg is based in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

James Kocian is a long-time TAXI member and now a mentor and song pro who speaks and leads with vulnerability and authenticity. His work as an assistant engineer contributed to a Grammy win in 2023, as well as a HIMA for Song of the Year. He also has 9 nominations this year for the Josie Awards as writer, artist, and producer, including social impact song of the year for "*Bully Inside*." He teaches real-world music industry lessons through the lens of relatable failure in his own journey. His passion is relationships. He savors every team he gets to be a part of. He and his wife, Jill, launched a new church in 2024, and he is also the state rep for Celebrate Recovery. In 2023, they also launched the TAXI-sponsored Northwoods Songwriters Retreat in Wisconsin, connecting writers and pros in shared spaces designed for growth.

Jim Thacker is the owner of Kazen Music Group and a music producer/songwriter with experience in many facets of the music industry, including an extensive track record of hundreds of placements in film, TV, and advertising. Kazen Music is a catalog and cooperative of artists and producers that create and represent music for TV/film, and has had multiple placements in films starring the likes of Emile Hirsch, Jason Statham, Dennis Quaid, Sylvester Stallone, and John Travolta, and numerous television placements including *AFV*, *The Young and the Restless*, and *S.W.A.T.* Jim and Kazen have a unique approach to sync that is honest, writer-friendly, and focused on building a long-term professional network of music supervisors, advertising executives, directors, etc. As a long-time TAXI member, Jim has made many of his friendships and connections via TAXI and largely through the Rally itself.

Joe Brandt provides music licensing, clearance, and supervision for television and film. He also works as a music analyst providing metadata, curation, and workflow optimization for several music production libraries and networks, including A+E and Hearst Media. Joe is currently producing an up-and-coming music docuseries on world-renowned guitar players and is supervising CNN's new music docuseries *Fred Armisen: Lost in Sound*, which explores the stories behind iconic music and artists through the Universal Music Group archives. Additional credits include: *The Real Housewives: Ultimate Girls Trip*, *Paris in Love*, *Dance Moms*, and *Ex on the Beach*.

John L Pearson is a Producer/Songwriter/Bass Player based in Nashville, TN. He has over 400 songs signed to top libraries and has had songs licensed by Hyundai, Samsung, Nissan, FedEx, and Cricket Wireless. His indie rock and singer-songwriter music has also been used on ABC (*The Rookie*), Netflix (*Outer Banks*), ZDF, ITV, and on TV and in commercials worldwide. John writes and produces Pop, Indie Rock, Indie Folk & Singer-Songwriter for artists, Film/TV and advertising opportunities.

Jonathan Weiss is a Los Angeles-based music supervisor and music producer for film and television, and A&R consultant for numerous production music libraries. Jonathan worked as Music Supervisor for over 130 episodes of the MTV series *The Real World/Road Rules': The Challenge*, as well as two seasons of E! Entertainment series *I Am Cait*. Jonathan also served as a music supervisor for: over 60 episodes of *Keeping Up With The Kardashians* on E!, the debut season of *Motor City Masters* on truTV, and *Love Games* for the Oxygen Channel. Other music supervision credits include: *American Beauty Star* for Lifetime and the feature film documentary, PBS's *Salinger: American Masters*, *Interscope Presents: The Next Episode* for Showtime Entertainment, *The Education of Max Bickford* for CBS, *U.C.: Undercover* for NBC, *Celebrity Undercover* for MTV, and Warner Bros. Pictures' theatrical release, *The Big Tease*. Jonathan is also an accomplished music producer who has worked with Grammy Award-winning songwriters and has executive produced over 60 film/TV music compilations for sync. He is a three-time nominee for a Guild of Music Supervisor Award and has served as an industry mentor at the Musician's Institute: College of Contemporary Music. Additionally, he is a frequent speaker and panelist at music industry conventions including SXSW, the ASCAP EXPO, MUSE EXPO, CMJ, the Production Music Association Conference, and more. Jonathan has also worked in A&R for Capitol Records and Universal Music Publishing, as well as at TAXI Independent A&R.

Keith LuBrant is a composer whose music has been featured in over 1,700 television shows across major networks including ABC, NBC, CBS, HBO, MTV, and VH1. With placements in films like *Hostile Takeover*, *Cats & Dogs 3*, and *Lizzy Borden*, along with high-profile placements in shows, Keith's work spans genres from high-energy rock to cinematic underscore. He has composed for commercial campaigns like Mattel's Hot Wheels Custom Motors, had music licensed for a Crown Royal ad campaign, scored digital shorts, and currently serves as one of the lead composers for Disney XD's *Beyblade X*. Keith also created the app Composer Catalog to help composers keep their music library organized.

Kelly Sayer is a Senior Director of A&R at Atlantic Records. Originally from Cape Town, South Africa, she came to the USA to study Music Production and Engineering at Berklee College of Music. She then began her career working as Alex da Kid's head engineer at KIDinaKORNER studios. While spending many hours in the studio with songwriters and artists, she fell in love with the record-making process. This led her to pursue a career in A&R, and ultimately brought her to Atlantic Records, where she joined the A&R team in early 2019. At the label, she has been the A&R behind hit songs like "abcdefu" by GAYLE and, most recently, "Stop the Wedding" by Ashe. She is continuing to build out her artist roster at Atlantic and is grateful that her job allows her to combine her three main passions: record-making, engineering, and being a spokesperson for the creatives who inspired her to pursue this career path.

Khris Berry is a prolific songwriter and co-founder of MyMusicReady, an exciting membership platform created to help songwriters develop music for sync and navigate the production music landscape. Her songs have earned placements in television and media both in the U.S. and internationally, and her work has been selected for inclusion in many elite production music libraries and catalogs around the world. Known as a powerful and versatile collaborator, Khris has built a reputation for crafting memorable hooks, compelling lyrics, and highly syncable songs across multiple genres. Her music is regularly trusted by music supervisors and industry professionals. Drawing from real-world songwriting, collaboration with vocalists, producers, and musicians, as well as her music licensing experience, Khris co-founded MyMusicReady to give other writers practical tools and industry insight to create stronger songs, become more effective and efficient, and prepare their music to compete in the global sync marketplace.

Liz Redwing has worked in and around the music and entertainment business for over 35 years. After learning piano, clarinet, and bass as a child and playing on stage and in concert and marching bands for 10 years, Liz moved to LA to pursue a career in the music business. Liz is the new administrative coordinator for the California Copyright Conference. The CCC hosts dinner panels, webinars, and mixers aimed at connecting and educating music industry professionals. Prior to that, she was the long-time administrative director for the Association of Independent Music Publishers' LA Chapter. Liz also manages producer Ronan Chris Murphy, does copyright research for Skye IP Management, and provides music business consulting for artists. She got her creative start at MCA Records and Interscope Music (Interscope Records' former publishing company with Ron Sexsmith, Tupac, Matthew Wilder, Possum Dixon, No Doubt, etc.). Liz also scouted for Atlantic Records and has held positions with management companies, business management firms, law firms, and in video production.

Marco Iannello is a UK-based, Italian musician and award-winning composer for media, film, and video games. He played keyboards in various metal and rock bands across Italy and the UK. Marco's music has been featured in a number of shows in the United States and Europe, and also, he has composed original scores for award-winning films. ABC, ARD 1, BBC, Bravo, ITV, MTV, M6, truTV, VH1, Vox, and ZDF are amongst his credits. Notable shows that used Marco's music are *The Con*, *Love & Hip-Hop*, *Pékin Express*, *Galileo*, *Real Housewives*, and *Top Guns: Inside the RAF*. Marco mainly specializes in music from the Middle East and East Asia, and also writes in diverse styles such as Dramatic, Orchestral, Cinematic, Electronic, Ambient, Dromedy, Suspense Tension, and Urban.

Matthew C. Vander Boegh is a full-time composer for television shows. His music is in high demand and plays somewhere on TV, somewhere in the world, every hour of every day. In his 15 years making music for TV, Vander Boegh has amassed a staggering 40,000+ placements on over 1,300 TV programs. He mentors many composers and songwriters in his home state of Idaho, guest lectures at colleges and workshops around the country, and runs his own YouTube channel ("Matt's Music Minute" - SUBSCRIBE!) dedicated to helping people find success in the sync music world.

Megan Barbour is the Director of Music at Space Cowboy Music, an award-winning, independent music supervision agency. She is an experienced Music Supervisor with a multi-faceted history in the entertainment industry. She is highly skilled in trailer and promo music supervision for theatrical, ad, branding, video game, and streaming campaigns. Prior to joining Space Cowboy Music, Megan had over 13 years of experience in music supervision, including three years as Director of Music at Buddha Jones. Her ability to understand both the creative and commercial aspects of a project have allowed her to craft music choices that resonate with audiences and amplify the story being told. She also excels in music licensing, leadership, public speaking, and management. Megan possesses a strong arts and music background from fronting multiple bands in college to the classic arts of drama, dance, opera, and musical theater. She graduated with a BA focused in Political Science from University of California, Riverside.

Michael Eames is a trained composer, songwriter and pianist with experience in film scoring who studied music at Cornell University and UCLA Extension; Michael also secured a minor in Business Management from Cornell. As President of PEN Music, Michael oversees all aspects of the operation as well as focuses on pitching the catalogue to all media and business development. Michael serves on the Unclaimed Royalties Oversight Committee (UROC) of The Mechanical Licensing Collective (MLC). Prior to starting PEN, Michael oversaw the international activities and film & television department of Don Williams Music Group where he was responsible for song catalogues such as Jimi Hendrix, Chicago and Roy Orbison among numerous others. He also worked previously for Brian Wilson of The Beach Boys and the management and music supervision firms, The Derek Power Co and Seth Kaplan Entertainment. Michael served as the National President of the Association of Independent Music Publishers (AIMP) from 2015-2018 and served as its National Vice President from 2013-2014, and proudly serves on the Independent Publishers Advisory Council (IPAC) of the National Music Publishers Association (NMPA). He is also a member of the California Copyright Conference (CCC) and the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS). Michael wrote the music publishing section of the Hal Leonard/Rowman & Littlefield-published book entitled “*Five-Star Music Makeover: The Independent Artist’s Guide for Singers, Songwriters, Bands, Producers and Self Publishers*”; co-teaches (with Bobby Borg) the UCLA Extension class Intro to Music Publishing: A Creative and Business Perspective; and is a frequent guest speaker in classrooms and panel discussions worldwide.

Michael Lloyd was Vice President of A&R for MGM Records by the age of 20, and for over 50 years, has been producing hit records and soundtracks, earning more than 110 gold and platinum awards and selling over 200 million records. Some of the artists he's worked with include Barry Manilow, Mike Love and the Beach Boys, Sugar Ray, Lou Rawls, Sylvie Vartan, Shaun Cassidy, Belinda Carlisle, The Monkees, The Bellamy Brothers, The Osmonds, Stryper, Sammy Davis, Jr., Bill Medley, The Righteous Brothers, Debby Boone, Kimberley Locke, Air Supply, and a special charity selection with Frank Sinatra, to name a few. He was the Music Supervisor for the film *Dirty Dancing*, wrote the Latin dance music for Patrick and Jennifer to dance to, and produced the *Dirty Dancing* soundtrack album. For many years, there has been *Dirty Dancing*, The Musical Company touring worldwide. He's done the scoring, music supervision, songwriting, song placement, and music producing for over 225 motion pictures, TV movies, TV specials, and television series. His records, ranging from Pop & Rock to Country & Jazz, R&B & Gospel, have been recognized by such organizations as the Grammys, the American Music Awards, the Academy Awards, the Dove Awards, NARM (the National Association of Record Merchants) and The Golden Globe Awards. He is featured in *Who's Who in America*, in *California & Entertainment*. His chart records span SEVEN decades, from the '60s to the present.

Michelle Lindley is a songwriter, artist, and entrepreneur dedicated to driving innovation within today’s evolving independent music community. As a co-founder of MyMusicReady, she is driven by a passion to streamline the creative journey for independent artists and equip creators with the tools necessary to succeed in a modern industry landscape. As an accomplished industry professional, Michelle's work spans creative production, talent development, and sync licensing, with television and movie placements across the globe. Beyond composition work, she leverages her industry insight in an A&R capacity, scouting exceptional new talent and helping artists refine their craft to achieve their creative and professional goals. Whether she is discovering the next generation of musical talent or building scalable technology for independent musicians, Michelle remains deeply committed to fostering collaboration and elevating human artistry at every level of the music ecosystem.

Peter Neff is a composer whose credits include the film *Mostly Ghostly* (Universal Pictures); video game *Spyro: Enter the Dragonfly*; promos for over 150 television shows, including *CSI*, *Survivor*, *Big Brother*, and *60 Minutes*; commercials for Miller Lite, BMW, and Pfizer; over 40 music library albums; with music placed in over 8000 episodes of television, including *Emily in Paris*, *Jane the Virgin*, *Acapulco*, *Parks and Recreation*, *30 Rock*, *The Sopranos*, *Saturday Night Live*, *America's Got Talent*, *Ibiza*, *Berlin Station*, *Hannah Montana*, and *CNN Newsroom*. Peter has been a multiple nominee for a Mark Award honoring excellence in production music, in addition to being the 2025 winner for best use of music in a television series. Peter's education includes a bachelor’s degree from Berklee College of Music, and a Master of Music from the University of Miami, Florida.

Randon Purcell is a full-time composer and sound designer known for his multi-genre contributions to film, television, and video game advertising. His work spans a wide range of placements in movie and television trailers (*Snow White*, *Novacaine*, *Dune Prophecy*, *Only Murders in the Building*), game trailers (*Call of Duty*, *Diablo*, *Warcraft*), and episodic content, as well as additional scoring credits on several films and documentaries and the popular *Blue Ridge* television series. In addition to his scoring and sound design work, Randon is the founder and principal sound designer of Fallout Music Group, a virtual instrument company recognized for its cutting-edge tools tailored for modern trailer music composers.

Rinat Arinos is the founder and CEO of Pink Shark Music, a Los Angeles-based music company specializing in music for television, film, advertising, trailers, and other media. Together with her exceptional team, Rinat has built Pink Shark Music into a trusted music source for major networks, studios, streaming platforms, production companies, and brands. Pink Shark Music provides an extensive catalog of songs and production music and creates custom scores and original songs for both scripted and unscripted television. The company's music has been featured across hundreds of productions for Netflix, NBCUniversal, Paramount, ABC, Warner Bros., Peacock, Hulu, The CW, and Amazon, with credits including *Dancing with the Stars*, *NBC Sports*, *Project Runway*, *Married at First Sight*, *Love Is Blind*, *All American*, *Next Gen NYC*, *The Loud House*, and *The Real Housewives* franchise, to name a few. With a background as a recording artist, songwriter, and producer, Rinat brings a creator's perspective to the business of music licensing. She and her team have built Pink Shark around strong industry relationships and exceptional music, creating meaningful opportunities for independent artists and composers. Earlier in her career, Rinat lent her voice to several recording projects, including, most notably, background vocals on "My Chemical Romance's *The Ghost of You*" from the multi-platinum album *Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge*.

Rob Chiarelli is a 5x GRAMMY Award-winning mix engineer and producer with dozens of Gold and Platinum albums. His credits include: Kirk Franklin, Will Smith, Tori Kelly, P!nk, Christina Aguilera, Ice Cube, Charlie Wilson, Angelique Kidjo, and Sting. Since the last Road Rally, Rob has mixed several #1 Billboard hits and had numerous sync placements in TV shows, commercials, and motion picture soundtracks.

Robin Frederick is the author of top-selling songwriting books, including *Shortcuts to Hit Songwriting* and *Shortcuts to Songwriting for Film & TV*. She has reached millions of aspiring songwriters through her highly rated websites and online courses. Her songwriting video series on YouTube has been seen by more than a million viewers. Robin has written and produced hundreds of songs for television, record albums, and theater. She is the executive producer of over 60 albums and a former Director of A&R for Rhino Records.

Ron Harris is a former A&R executive at Sony and Epic Records, as well as a multi-platinum producer, songwriter, and musician. Ron has worked with Christina Aguilera, Fergie, Gwen Stefani, The Jacksons, and more.

Ronan Chris Murphy has hundreds of credits ranging from prog-rock legends King Crimson to Norwegian artist Aurora, to shock rockers GWAR and everything in between, including Tony Levin, Steve Morse, Terry Bozzio, Alexia, Ulver, Jamie Walters, Steve Stevens, and Nels Cline. His productions have charted in the U.S. and as far away as Iceland, Greece, and Malaysia, and he is a Billboard-charting songwriter. He also works on music for non-album projects including the hit Norwegian film *Uno* and video games like *Assassin's Creed Brotherhood* and *Mafia III*. He lectures, teaches, and consults about recording internationally with his business Recording Boot Camp and hosts workshops and retreats in the US and Italy. He is based in Northwestern Massachusetts and Central Italy.

Stephanie Reid is the VP of Creative Synchronization, Publishing, and A&R at Black Toast® Music (BTM™), a formally trained vocalist and experienced performer/songwriting collaborator with degrees in Jazz Studies (B.A. | UCLA, Herb Alpert School) and Music Industry Administration (M.A. | CSUN). During her tenure at BTM™ she's successfully garnered a litany of placements, outnumbering the 130+ projects where they've landed, including: *The Boys*, *Gen V*, *9-1-1: Nashville*, *Untamed*, *Ransom Canyon*, *Carrie*, *Widow's Bay*, *Leanne*, *Bookie*, *Seal Team*, *Dark Harvest*, *B-Positive*, *The Consultant*, *Virgin River*, *Saturdays*, *The Big Conn*, *Cobra Kai*, *Brand New Cherry Flavor*, *All American*, *Riverdale*, *She-Hulk: Legends of Tomorrow*, *Gladiator*, *Evil Genius*, *The Boys in the Boat*, *Till*, *Greyhound*, and *The Midnight Sky*.

Steve Barden is a production music composer for film & TV and an author. His music can be heard on television somewhere in the world on a daily basis. His music has aired on: ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, ABC Family, A&E, the American Heroes Channel, Animal Planet, the Biography Channel, Bravo, Comedy Central, the Cooking Channel, the Discovery Channel, E!, the Food Network, the Game Show Network, HGTV, HULU, Investigation Discovery, Lifetime, MTV, National Geographic, the Oprah Winfrey Network, the Outdoor Channel, Oxygen, PBS, the Science Channel, the Style Channel, the SyFy Channel, TLC, the Travel Channel, truTV, Univision, and VH1. Steve is also the author of several books on production music, including *Writing Production Music for TV: The Road to Success*, *Deconstructing Production Music for TV: Secrets Behind Writing Successful Music Cues*; as well as *Mastering StaffPad: Digital Music Notation for the Modern Composer*. Steve is the owner and CEO of Reel Note Music, a production music library for trailers, film, and TV.

Steve Bloch has lived and worked in the country music industry in Nashville for 30 years. Whether in his roles of owner/publisher of Southern Cow Music and Writer Zone Music, LLC, or as an independent A&R consultant for Giant Records, for Doug Johnson at Black River Entertainment, or for Dolly Parton's record producer, Kent Wells, this LA transplant has always remained true to his passions of cheerleading and developing writers and promoting great country songs that matter. As a publisher or independent song plugger, Steve has had songs recorded by Faith Hill, Blake Shelton, Clay Walker, Lee Ann Womack, and Kenny Chesney, among others, and has recently secured three cuts on Cody Johnson's latest two projects. Steve is a frequent guest of numerous songwriting conferences and festivals and is available for private mentoring sessions.

Steven Memel is an internationally acclaimed voice and performance coach based in Los Angeles, CA, and the creator of "The Science of Switching On" — the first comprehensive voice technique and performance system. His clients have received Grammys, Emmys, Tonys, and have been nominated for Academy Awards. They've sold millions of albums worldwide, appeared on national television and film, and competed successfully on competition shows such as *American Idol*, *The Voice*, and *America's Got Talent*. Steven brings a rare combination of technical mastery and performance artistry — but what truly sets him apart is his expertise at "getting your head right," so you can get the absolute most out of YOU!

Tom Gire has worked his way through the entertainment world from Musical Director on *The Love Boat* to Owner, Composer, and COO of a music library and licensing company. He and his business partner formed Brand X to create scores and license music for commercial and corporate clients including Warner Bros., Disney Universal, Paramount Pictures, Fox Networks, Hulu, and Disney +. Tom has created original scores for major motion picture studios, working as an arranger, synth programmer, and composer alongside Hans Zimmer and John Williams. He currently oversees a team of composers who create 24 albums a year in styles ranging from epic cinematic to pop and hip hop. These albums are distributed and licensed exclusively through Brand X Music in the USA and through their affiliates worldwide.

Tracey and Vance Marino are known for writing happy, upbeat music and have had hundreds of placements in film, TV, commercials, trailers, video games, and promos. Their music has been on CBS, NBC, ABC, Netflix, and HBO; talk shows like *The Kelly Clarkson Show*, *Today Show*, *Late Show*, *Tonight Show*; sports including NFL, college football and basketball, MLB baseball, PGA Tour, NASCAR; dozens of reality TV shows like *The Voice*, *Catfish*, *Forged in Fire*, and more. Their book *Hey! That's My Song! A Guide to Getting Music Placements in Film, TV, and Media* was #1 in Amazon's Music Business and Songwriting categories.

Ty Knox is an American music entertainment executive and music publisher. Knox recently founded MAS & Co., a music administration, clearance, and licensing company with former R&B singer DeMonica Santiago. MAS & Co. currently handles music administration for a variety of labels and artists (Anderson Paak, Megan Thee Stallion, Damian Lillard, Erika Banks), as well as music clearances on a variety of films, TV shows, and commercial ads. Most notably, Ty Knox was an A&R executive for GRAMMY®-winning producers David Foster and Kenny “Babyface” Edmonds, and is the owner of the legendary Can Am Recording Studios in the suburbs of Los Angeles. Knox has worked with numerous multi-Platinum artists, from Mariah Carey, Toni Braxton, Nicole Scherzinger, to Jay Z and DMX. Ty has earned several multi-Platinum and Gold awards for his work as a music publisher and A&R executive. Ty Knox started his career as a music producer and rapper in the early ‘90s with the help of the multi-platinum production team the LA Posse and has had joint venture production and publishing deals with Jive, Sony, and Universal Music Publishing.

Will Derryberry is a songwriter, producer, worship pastor, and sync composer with hundreds of television and film placements across major networks and streaming platforms, including Netflix, NBC, ABC, HGTV, and international productions. His music spans cinematic rock, Americana, worship, sports, and trailer-style production, and he has partnered with numerous publishers and music libraries throughout his career. Will is passionate about helping songwriters grow, not only in their craft, but in who they’re becoming along the way. He enjoys helping creatives write compelling songs, produce broadcast-ready tracks, navigate the sync industry, and build meaningful, lasting careers. His mentoring blends practical industry experience with the conviction that lasting success comes from becoming the kind of artist whose character, creativity, and calling grow together.