

Henry Mancini

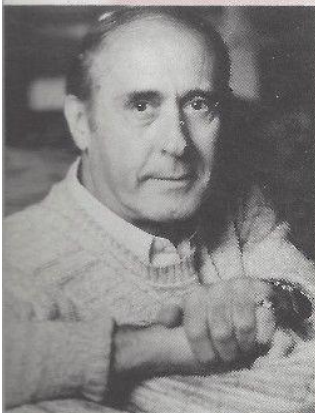
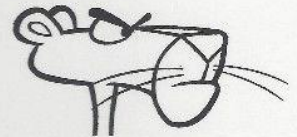
HENRY MANCINI WAS ONE of the most successful composers in the history of television and film. He won 20 Grammys and 4 Oscars, and his albums have sold more than 30 million copies. Mancini had a gift for weaving memorable melodies into coherent, inventive film scores. It's impossible to think of *The Pink Panther* without recalling its "slinking around on tippy-toes" theme, as Mancini described it, or *Hatari!* without humming the whimsical BABY ELEPHANT WALK. Mancini also wrote catchy themes for TV series such as "Peter Gunn" and "Mr. Lucky." His first record album, *THE MUSIC FROM PETER GUNN*, sold more than a million copies and made him a recording star.

Born in Ohio in 1924 and raised near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Mancini later recognized his home region's contributions to American culture. "Along with all that steel, it produced some marvelously talented people," Mancini wrote in his 1989 autobiography *Did They Mention the Music?*, citing several well-known performers. The young Mancini would soon join their ranks, working as a pianist in the reorganized Glenn Miller Orchestra after World War II and then moving to California in 1947 to begin a lifetime of performing, composing, and arranging music.

From the 1950s until the early 1990s, Mancini wrote complete scores for more than 70 films, including *Days of Wine and Roses*, *The Great Race*, "10," *Charade*, *Wait Until Dark*, and *Victor/Victoria*. "Everything I have ever written comes from the picture," he said on more than one occasion. "One's own emotional reaction is dictated by what's up there on the screen."



Henry Mancini died in 1994, but his legacy of unforgettable music lives on. "All of us craftsmen have a tendency to borrow a bit from those we love," Mancini told an interviewer in 1991, and Hollywood composers are sure to find inspiration in his music for many years to come.



background: © Bettman/CORBIS; left: Courtesy Henry Mancini Enterprises, Inc.; right: ©Richard Blanshard/CORBIS; THE PINK PANTHER and associated marks and characters™ & © 2004 METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER STUDIOS INC. All rights reserved.

Stamps printed by Sennett Security Products (SSP) / No. 707 in a series / April 13, 2004 / Printed in U.S.A. / © 2004 United States Postal Service

