

ROBERT NAVARRO

Biography

Robert Anthony Navarro was born in Manhattan, NY. The son of a Latin entertainer and a Playboy bunny, the nephew of a motion picture producer and the first female bullfighter in Tijuana, and the godson of Latin percussion legend Tito Puente; Navarro's upbringing was anything but normal. According to his mother: "Robert sang before he learned how to walk." From the time he was a child his musical memory and relative pitch enabled him to sing everything from Disneyland attraction soundtracks to movie and television themes. But it was not until high school that he began to get serious about music.

During his freshman year, Navarro was heavily influenced by an eclectic mix of musical artists, including *The Bangles*, *The Monkees*, *Def Leppard*, *Metallica* and *The Beatles*. He picked up the guitar and never put it down.

Navarro spend the next years studying guitar with various teachers including Kirk Hellie (guitarist for Steve Jones of the *Sex Pistols*) and Bruce Bouillet of *Racer-X*, as well as playing in rock bands. Eventually he attended Cal State Northridge (CSUN) for Music Theory, and studied classical guitar with Ron Borczone and Eric Jones. Although intrigued by formal music education, his passion for rock music drove Navarro to put college on hold in favor of attending the Musician's Institute. It was during his time at M.I. that his music skills were honed - especially songwriting and ear training. While his friends were off watching how-to videos by their favorite guitar heroes, or practicing scales to be the fastest gun in the west, Navarro was in the computer lab training his ears to recognize multi-octave intervals, chords, scales and rhythmic patterns. This was all due to the advice of his mentor, Bruce Bouillet, who cautioned him to avoid coming out of M.I. as an Yngwie Malmsteen clone. Bouillet's advice served Navarro well, and he emerged from music school a formidable songwriter and an accomplished musician.

After M.I. Navarro returned to college to pursue a bachelor's degree. In his spare time he studied composition and orchestration with Rowan Taylor and Steven Piazza (Los Angeles Philharmonic) and Daniel Kessner (CSUN). He left CSUN (at the advice of Kessner) when he was accepted to Occidental College to study with Richard Grayson.

Navarro found Occidental College to be both challenging and rewarding. Along with the rigorous curriculum of required courses, he supplemented his education with a myriad of music-related electives. Navarro studied privately with K-USC's Alan Chapman, Lawrence Sonderling (Los Angeles Philharmonic), Jeffrey Bernstein, and Tim Emmons. Navarro also began teaching guitar, and eventually took over the students of his former instructor Kirk Hellie. He also played bass in the OXY Jazz band and fronted what would eventually evolve into the pop/punk/alt group known as *Trip*.

Following Occidental College, Navarro put teaching on hold to pursue a career with *Trip*. The group signed a development deal with Haven Arts, an artist development/production company founded by Wyn Davis of Total Access Recording. In the next few years, *Trip* released their CD 'Naked' (acclaimed by The Kings of A&R Report and Music

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Connection Magazine), appeared on national television (Ed McMahon's "Next Big Star") and frequently played the LA club circuit.

In January of 2001, Navarro accepted the position of Music Director for Associated Production Music (APM Music) - a production music library co-owned by EMI and UMG. He selected tracks for music supervisors spanning the motion picture, television, video game and radio industries on projects such as *Spider-Man*, *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*, *Smallville*, *The Sopranos*, *Six Feet Under*, *Sponge Bob Square Pants* and *Twisted Metal Black*. Eventually Navarro crossed over into the production side of the business, and sang on various library CDs. This led to coordinating CD projects for various APM related libraries, as well as producing, recording and composing CDs of his own, including a co-production with film composer Jeff Rona, various projects with Jeffrey Cain and Leslie Van Trease of *Remy Zero*, Scott Rockenfield and Michael Wilton of *Queensrÿche*, and award winning lyricist Hal David. Shortly thereafter, he became the Executive Producer of the APM Custom Music division. Working directly with Fortune 500 companies and celebrity artists, Navarro and his team produced a tremendous amount of music, including ESPN's "Monday Night Football Theme" (2007) and "The Kansas City Royals Theme." To date, he has produced 30 library CDs and over 2,000 individual tracks for APM related productions,

In August of 2007 Navarro resigned from APM Music to found Ra Audio Inc., a music production company dedicated to creating contemporary music for motion pictures, television, video games and commercial artists.

Navarro's music is featured in several video games, including *Naruto: The Broken Bond & Rise Of A Ninja* (Ubisoft), *Driver 76'* (Ubisoft), *Surf's Up* (Ubisoft), *LA RUSH* (Midway Games), and *American Chopper: Full Throttle* (Activision).

Navarro lives and works in Los Angeles, CA, where he splits his time between composing for film, TV and video games, music supervision and producing.