



Arif Mardin
1932–2006

Arif Mardin, renowned record producer, died on June 25, at his home in New York City, at the age of 74. Mardin was the keynote speaker at the 115th Conven-

tion of the AES in New York in October 2003. He contributed to many of contemporary music's most brilliant works and made an indelible mark on the music industry.

Mardin was born in Istanbul and graduated from Istanbul University where he studied economics. An ardent jazz fan and self-taught arranger and composer, he met Dizzy Gillespie and Quincy Jones at a jazz concert in 1956 in Istanbul. They were so impressed with his work that he was awarded the first Quincy Jones Scholarship at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. Mardin then became interested in pop music. He began his music business career at Atlantic Records in 1963, working his way up to house producer and arranger for the record label and eventually became senior vice president.

Some of the notable artists he pro-

duced include Aretha Franklin, the Bee Gees, and Bette Midler. He won 12 Grammys, including two for best producer, nonclassical (in 1976 and 2003) and was a major architect of the pop-soul style in the late 1960s.

Mardin collaborated as the arranger with Tom Dowd and Jerry Wexler, fellow Atlantic Records producers. Out of the Atlantic sound came the mainstream style of rhythm and blues. His work with the Bee Gees influenced their score for "Saturday Night Fever," whose soundtrack became the best-selling album at that time.

Mardin won over 40 gold and platinum albums. In 1990 he was inducted into the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame. At the time of his death he was recording a collection of his own compositions with his son as coproducer.

