



1525 AVIATION BOULEVARD
STE 1000 REDONDO BEACH
CALIFORNIA 90278-2805
PHONE 818-505-9600
SMCARTISTS.COM
A TALENT AGENCY

DAVID THOMAS

TOUGH

COMPOSER SONGWRITER PRODUCER
MULTI-INSTRUMENTALIST

PROFILE

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS



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DAVID THOMAS TOUGH



From the Academy Awards®, the Cannes Film Festival and primetime Television, the ubiquitous work of David Thomas Tough is heard around the world. And, it was most recent that one of his songs appeared in “Anora,” the 2025 recipient of the Academy Award® for Best Motion Picture.

David (aka Dave Tough) is a consummate songwriter, engineer, producer and performer, whose work has garnered a Grammy Award® nomination, two awards from the John Lennon Songwriting Competition— including Grand Prize Winner—among many other awards and acknowledgements.

Making music has been a part of Dave’s life from birth. Born in Springfield, Missouri, his mother was a nurse, who always played the Broadway Songbook, and was a huge fan of Broadway musicals. His father, an attorney, was a rocker, and led bands (vocals, guitar and piano) throughout his teens. The mold was set.

Dave was improvising rhythms and melodies on piano and drums as early as four years of age, making up little songs of his own. He started playing saxophone in the school band when in the fifth grade, and transitioned to drum set and drumline in high school. He also played guitar and bass, played in garage bands and received his Eagle Scout during this time. Dave was “the kid” in high school who taught everyone in his bands what to play on their instruments, as well as overseeing the production and recordings in his basement.

Attending the University of North Texas (UNT) to study Jazz, he had the good fortune to study under Jazz great Ed Soph on drum set. After graduating from UNT, he relocated to Los Angeles, where he worked at Warner Chappell Music Publishing, BMG Music Publishing and TAXI, and also served as a business consultant for other music companies, including Transition Music and Warner Music Group.. In the midst of all this, he even had a short stint as a radio DJ!

After receiving his MBA from Pepperdine University, Dave once again relocated, this time to Nashville. While writing, performing and recording for bands, including the Academy of Country Music nominated “The Lost Trailers,” he completed his work for a Doctor of Education at Tennessee State University. Since then, Dave has contributed songs to nearly



50 motion pictures and over 100 Television productions, music videos and videogames. There are also scores of artists who have recorded his works. Dave also has two of his own YouTube Channels, “***Producer’s Room with Dave Tough***” and “***Producer’s Room – Dave’s Waves***,” with nearly 3,000 followers.

Another part of his life is developing and mentoring young artists just starting in the music business.

In early Fall, 2016, Dave found himself suddenly experiencing night sweats and shortness of breath when walking down the street. He was diagnosed as having the heart of an 80-year-old. After a month of treatment, it was determined that he would require a heart replacement. It took five weeks from when Dave went to the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit, to when he got the heart transplant at the Vanderbilt Transplant Center, which is one of the world’s busiest heart transplant centers. Today, a grateful Dave Tough continues to effectuate magic in his work.

Dave believes his life has been greatly provided by the intervention of a higher source.

“I believe Creation is our human attempt to mirror the Creator and the creation around us. I believe all of us can be a conduit for the Creator. If you listen hard enough, you will hear God’s voice all around. One of my favorite quotes is from Mother Theresa...”

‘I am a little pencil in God’s hand. He does the thinking. He does the writing. He does everything, and sometimes it is really hard, because it is a broken pencil, and He has to sharpen it a little more.’

Dave also follows the advice of Quincy Jones. At one of the annual ASCAP® events, “I Create Music Expo,” in Hollywood, Mr. Jones advised aspiring musicians to understand the science of music, and to have “...humility with your creativity, and grace with your success. It’s really important because it’s not really you,” Jones said. “You’re a terminal for a higher power.” This echoes Dave’s sentiments.

Dave and his family are a residents of Nashville, Tennessee.

DAVID THOMAS TOUGH

COMPOSER SONGWRITER MULTI-INSTRUMENTALIST PRODUCER

www.DaveTough.com | Artist Relations | Nashville • Los Angeles • New York | Citizenship: United States

INDUSTRY RECOGNITIONS

- **2025 Academy Awards®, Best Film, “Anora”**
Soundtrack Song, “Kick Sip Win”.
Written by David Thomas Tough and Danny Matthew Guarino; Performed by Danny G
- **66th Grammy Awards®, Nominee**
Best Music Film — Lewis Capaldi: “How I’m Feeling Now”
Dave Tough, composer-songwriter-producer
- **Instrumental Song of the Year, 37th Covenant Awards, Gospel Music Association of Canada**
“Rise Again,” Sean Spicer, Treneta Bowden and Dave Tough, songwriter-producer
- **Vocal Song of the Year, 37th Covenant Awards, Gospel Music Association of Canada**
“Rise Again,” Sean Spicer, Treneta Bowden, Dave Tough, songwriter-producer
- **Grand Prize, Best Song: Country Category, John Lennon Songwriting Contest, New York**
“Beatles Without John,” Dave Tough, composer-songwriter-producer
- **Best Electronic Song, John Lennon Songwriting Contest, New York**
“Falling Down,” Xavier and Ophelia (Dave Tough and DeAnna Moore), Dave Tough, composer-songwriter-producer
- **Instrumental Song of the Year, Dove Award, Gospel Music Association of Canada**
“Rise Again,” Treneta Bowden, performer-writer; Sean Spicer, writer; Dave Tough, producer-mixer-engineer
- **Best Pop Song & Second Place, Indie International Songwriting Contest, Portland**
“Made of Stars,” Xavier and Ophelia (Dave Tough and DeAnna Moore), Dave Tough, composer-songwriter-producer
- **Best Rock Song, Second Place, Indie International Songwriting Contest, Portland**
“I Hate Birds,” Dave Tough, composer-songwriter-producer
- **Best Song, Finalist, Songdoor Songwriting Competition**
“Six Billion Lonely People,” Xavier and Ophelia (Dave Tough and DeAnna Moore), Dave Tough, composer-songwriter-producer
- **Best Song, Finalist, International Songwriting Competition, Nashville**
“Nothing Sweet About Alabama,” Dave Tough, composer-songwriter-producer-performer
- **Best Song, Finalist, United Kingdom Songwriting Competition**
“Last Recorded Summer,” Xavier and Ophelia (Dave Tough and DeAnna Moore), Dave Tough, composer-songwriter-producer
- **Best Song, Finalist, International Songwriting Competition, Nashville**
“Last Recorded Summer,” Xavier and Ophelia (Dave Tough and DeAnna Moore), Dave Tough, composer-songwriter-producer
- **Best Rock Song, Finalist, John Lennon Songwriting Contest, New York**
“It’s Not Over,” JD Donal, Dave Tough, composer-songwriter-producer

EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATION BY OTTO VAVRIN II

- **Annual Best of the Holidays CD, Nashville Songwriter's Association International**
"Christmas in the Air," Dave Tough and JD Dohnal, producer-composers-songwriters
- **Best Song, Semi-Finalist, International Songwriting Competition, Nashville**
"Tell Ya' That I Love Ya'," featuring Tre Houston and Solo Jones, Dave Tough, composer-songwriter
- **Best Song, Semi-Finalist, International Songwriting Competition, Nashville**
"Six Billion Lonely People," Xavier and Ophelia (Dave Tough and DeAnna Moore), Dave Tough, composer-songwriter
- **Best Song, Semi-Finalist, International Songwriting Competition, Nashville**
"Hillbilly Fire," Dave Tough, composer-songwriter-producer
- **Instrumental Song of the Year, Semi-Finalist, Covenant Award, Gospel Music Association of Canada**
"Comfort and Peace," featuring Sean Spice, Dave Tough, songwriter-producer
- **Indaba Sync Contest, Los Angeles, Runner Up**
"I Need Money," Xavier and Ophelia (Dave Tough and DeAnna Moore), Dave Tough, composer-songwriter

MOTION PICTURES

- **THE NAUGHTY LIST OF MR. SCROOGE (Soundtrack)** — Jake Helgren, dir. | James Black, Autumn Federici, prods. | The Ninth House
- **CAMERA (Soundtrack, Multiples)** — Jay Silverman, dir. | Ian Christian Blanche, Beau Bridges, Bethany Cerrona, prods. | Jay Silverman Productions
- **ANORA (Soundtrack)** — Sean Baker, dir./prod. | Alex Coco, Samantha Quan, prods. | Cre Film / Neon
2025 Academy Award®, Best Film – Soundtrack Song, "Kick Sip Win"
- **TAKE ME TO BANAUE (Soundtrack, Multiples)** — Danny Aguilar, dir. | Ramon Bravante, Rowena, prods. | Carpe Diem Pictures
- **LEE FIELDS: FAITHFUL MAN (Soundtrack)** — Jessamyn Ansary, Joyce Mishan, dirs. | Michael Canzoniero, Keith Miller, prods. | MCM Creative
- **ABOUT HIM & HER (Soundtrack)** — Íce Mroaek, dir. | Independence Hall, prod. | Anam Cara Films
- **D LIST (Soundtrack)** — Paul James Haughton, dir. | Ella Greenwood, prod. | Dreamotion Studios
- **LEWIS CAPALDI: HOW I'M FEELING NOW (Soundtrack)** — Joe Pearlman, dir. | Sam Bridger, Isabel Davis, Joe Pearlman, Alice Rhodes, prods. | BMG / Netflix
- **HASH TAG BLESSED: THE MOVIE (Soundtrack)** — Stephanie McBain, dir. | Dalea Faulkner, Martina Webster, prods. | Entertainment Squad / Polyband
- **THERE'S SOMEONE INSIDE YOUR HOUSE (Soundtrack)** — Patrick Brice, dir. | Michael Clear, Dan Cohen, Shawn Levy, James Wan, prods. | Netflix
- **RESORT TO LOVE (Soundtrack)** — Steven K. Tsuchida, dir. | Alicia Keys, Maggie Malina, Jeremy Kipp Walker, prods. | Netflix
- **RED ROCKET (Soundtrack)** — Sean Baker, dir. | Alex Coco, Samantha Quan, Alex Saks, prods. | FilmNation Entertainment
- **STARS FELL ON ALABAMA (Soundtrack, Multiples)** — V.W. Scheich, dir. | Jeffrey Allard, prod. | Samuel Goldwyn Films
- **EMPTY CHAIR (Video, Soundtrack)** — J.D. Dohnal, dir./prod. | Midnight Karma Music
- **NOELLE (Soundtrack)** — Mark Lawrence, dir. | Suzanne Todd, prod. | Walt Disney Pictures / Disney+
- **THE WEDDING YEAR (Soundtrack)** — Robert Luketic, dir. | Mark Korshak, Gary Lucchesi, Marc Reid, prods. | Lakeshore Entertainment

EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATION BY OTTO VAVRIN II

- **FLASHOUT (Soundtrack)** — Richard Lerner, dir./prod. | Flashout Films
- **STUBER (Soundtrack)** — Michael Dowse, dir. | John Francis Daley, Jonathan Goldstein, prods. | Twentieth Century Fox
- **IF YOU'RE GONE (Soundtrack)** — Brittany Goodwin, dir. | John Goodwin, Justin Price, prods. | Every New Day Pictures
- **THIS OLD MACHINE (Additional Music, Producer/Mixer)** — Brad Garis, dir. | Charles Bodenheimer, prod. | ITN Distribution
- **#WANDERLUST (Soundtrack)** — Maggie VandenBerghe, dir. | Rosewood Gold R. Renee, prod.
- **RIPPED (Soundtrack)** — Brad Epstein, dir. | Ike Suri, Suzanne Weinert, prods. | Double Dutch International
- **BREAKING LEGS (Soundtrack)** — Mark Marchillo, dir. | Micah E. Brandt, prod. | UFO Pictures / Lighthouse Pictures
- **THUMPER (Soundtrack)** — Jordan Ross, dir. | Fernando Loureiro, Roberto Vasconcellos, prods. | Exhibit / The Works
- **DRONE (Soundtrack)** — Jason Bourque, dir. | Sefton Fincham, Ken Frith, prods. | Look to the Sky Films
- **SOCIAL NORM (Soundtrack)** — Dillon Vibbart, dir. | Matt Kohler, prod. | Cuz Productions / Gravitas Ventures
- **THE HEALING TREE (Music Engineer)** — Frances E. Chang, dir. | Georgina González, prod. | USC School of Cinematic Arts
- **HOLIDAY BREAKUP (Additional Music, Soundtrack)** — Temple Matthews, dir. | Joel Baral, Peger Odio, prods. | American Cinema International
- **MOMENTS OF CLARITY (Soundtrack)** — Steve Elam, dir. | David J. Phillips, Kristin Wallace, prods. | Level 33 Entertainment
- **SUICIDE PARTY #SAVEDAVE (Soundtrack)** — Jack M.F. Skylyer, Alex Zinzopolous, dirs. | Gini Graham Scott, prod. | R-Squared Films
- **SHAKE OFF THE WORLD (Soundtrack, Multiples)** — Chuck Williams, dir. | Timothy E. Goodwin, Horacio Gosparini, prods. | Avondale Pictures
- **STAINED GLASS RAINBOWS (Soundtrack)** — Kent C. Williamson, dir./prod. | Paladin Pictures
- **CUDDLE (Song Producer)** — Jason O'Brien, dir./prod. | Fast Lane Productions
- **ANALISE MALICK: 1,000 THINGS (Songwriter)** — Josh Moody, dir. | Dave Moody, prod. | Lamon Records
- **RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON (Soundtrack, Multiples)** — Anna Marie Rosenberg, dir./prod. | Tocatta Film / Spirit
- **VOSOT: VOICE OVER SOUND ON TAPE (Soundtrack)** — Brett Williams Mauser, dir./prod. | Mauser Media
- **TRUTH (Soundtrack)** — J.S. Johnson, dir. | Michel Duran, Chris Shalow, Ron Hall, prods. | CMHL Enterprises
- **OBSERVE AND REPORT (Soundtrack, Multiples)** — Jody Hill, dir. | Donald De Line, prod. | Warner Bros.

TELEVISION – SERIES / MINISERIES / TELEFILMS / DOCUMENTARIES

- **FINDING SANTA (Soundtrack)** — David Winning, dir. | Greg Malcolm, Vicki Sotheran, prods. | Hallmark Channel
- **UNDER THE AUTUMN MOON (Additional Music)** — Gary Yates, dir. | Phyllis Laing, prod. | Hallmark Channel
- **SUMMER LOVE (Soundtrack)** — Lynne Stopkewich, dir. | Harvey Kahn, prod. | Front Street Pictures / Hallmark Channel
- **CHRISTMAS BOUNTY (Soundtrack)** — Gil Junger, dir. | James Berg, Stan Zimmerman, Michael J. Luisi, prods. | ABC Family
- **SAUSAGE PARTY: FOODTOPIA (Soundtrack)** — Conrad Vernon, dir. | Kylr Hunter, Ariel Schafir, prods. | Amazon Prime
- **THE GOLDEN BACHELOR (Multiples)** — Ken Fuchs, dir. | Devon Hughes, prod. | Warner Horizon Unscripted Television

- **VIRGIN RIVER (Soundtrack)** — Monika Mitchell, dir. | Sally Dixon, prod. | Real World Management / Netflix
- **HEELS (Soundtrack)** — Michael Lehman, dir. | Bryce Ahart, Stephanie McFarlane, Mike O'Malley, prods. | STARZ
- **JOE PICKETT (Soundtrack, Multiples)** — Blackhorse Lowe, dir. | Drew Dowdle, Lucy Dowdle, John Erick Dowdle, prods. | Spectrum Originals
- **FLORIDA MAN (Soundtrack)** — Julian Farino, dir. | Miguel Arteta, prod. | Aggregate Films / Netflix
- **THE ROOKIE: FEDS (Soundtrack)** — Patrick Cady, dir. | Alexi Hawley, Terence Paul Winter, prods. | ABC
- **THE BEST MAN: THE FINAL CHAPTERS (Soundtrack)** — Charles Stone III, dir. | David Bausch, Sean Varga, prods. | Peacock
- **CALL ME KAT (Soundtrack)** — Alissa Neubauer, Darlene Hunt, prods. | FOX
- **CLUB 57 (Soundtrack, Multiples)** — Otto Rodriguez, Gustavo Cova, dirs. | Nickelodeon Productions
- **BIG SKY (Soundtrack)** — Lisa Leone, dir. | Michael Pendell, Elwood Reid, prods. | ABC
- **PANHANDLE (Soundtrack)** — Colin Bucksey, dir. | Carla Kettner, Moe Bardach, Nicholas Stoller, prods. | Fox Network
- **NEW AMSTERDAM (Soundtrack)** — Nestor Carbonell, dir. | David DeClerque, Ryan Eggold, Eric Manheimmer, prods. | NBC
- **JOE VS. CAROL (Soundtrack)** — Justin Tipping, dir. | Stephen Welke, prod. | Peacock / Universal
- **THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS (Soundtrack, 8 Episodes)** — Various, dirs. | Edward Scott, William J. Bell, et al, prods. | CBS
- **ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO (Soundtrack, Multiples)** — Lance Anderson, dir. | Christopher Hollier, Carina Adly MacKenzie, prods. | The CW
- **AMERICAN HORROR STORIES (Soundtrack)** — Loni Peristere, dir. | Todd Kubrak, Todd Nenninger, prods. | FX
- **KRYUK (aka HOOK) (Soundtrack)** — Ivan Oganessov, dir. | Georgy Malkov, Stanislav Dovzhik, prods. | MEGOGO (Ukraine)
- **HEARTLAND DOCS, DVM (Soundtrack, Multiples)** — Jay Baker, dir. | Matt Farabaugh, Ricky Alt, Jeff Hawkes, prods. | Disney+
- **LOVE AND HIP HOP: NEW YORK (Soundtrack)** — Various, dirs. | Maricamen Lopez, Kim Osorio, Mona Scott-Young, prods. | VH1
- **BLINDSPOT (Soundtrack)** — Various, dirs. | Greg Berlanti, Martin Gero, Sarah Schechter, prods. | NBC
- **BEACH HUNTERS (Soundtrack, Multiples)** — Mark Pierce, Chris Richardson, Marianne Wali Wilkinson, dirs. | HGTV
- **THE BUSCH FAMILY BREWED (Soundtrack, Multiples)** — Sean R. Matthews, Bobbie Bencio, prods. | MTV
- **THE ROOKIE (Soundtrack)** — Sylvain White, dir. | Robert Bella, P. Todd Coe, Alexi Hawley, Helen Pai, prods. | ABC
- **HOUSE HUNTERS INTERNATIONAL (Soundtrack)** — John Bertholon, exec. prod. | HGTV
- **BH90210 (Soundtrack)** — Gina Lamar, dir. | Roché Jeffrey, Paul Sciarrotta, prods. | FOX
- **SNOWFALL (Soundtrack)** — Alonzo Alvarez, dir. | Dave Andron, Tony Mark, Evan Silverberg, prods. | FX
- **YOU ME HER (Soundtrack, Multiples)** — Jem Garrard, dir. | Jonathan Schwartz, prod. | Audience Network
- **GEORDIE SHORE (Soundtrack)** — Max Barber, Michael Reese, dirs. | MTV Hungary
- **RIDE WITH NORMAN REEDUS (Soundtrack)** — Kevin Vargas, prod. | AMC
- **NASHVILLE (Soundtrack, Multiples)** — Various, dirs. | Callie Khouri, Marshall Herskovitz, prods. | ABC
- **S.W.A.T. (Soundtrack)** — Billy Gierhart, dir. | Shawn Ryan, Aaron Rahsaan Thomas, prods. | CBS
- **SUPERSTORE (Soundtrack)** — Michael Weaver, dir. | Jonathan Greene, Gabe Miller, prods. | NBC

- **NCIS: LOS ANGELES (Soundtrack)** — Paul A. Kaufman, dir. | David Bellisario, Shane Brennan, Rick Tunell, prods. | CBS
- **SHAMELESS (Soundtrack)** — Nisha Ganatra, dir. | Terri Murphy, prod. | Showtime
- **GLEE (Soundtrack)** — Dante Di Loreto, dir. | Ryan Murphy, Brad Falchuk, Ian Brennan, prods. | FOX
- **PRETTY LITTLE LIARS (Soundtrack)** — Joseph Dougherty, dir. | I. Marlene King, prod. | ABC Family
- **EMPIRE (Soundtrack)** — Anthony Hemingway, dir. | Ilene Chaiken, Loucas George, prods. | FOX

TELEVISION – ADDITIONAL SPORTS PROGRAMMING

- **BALLY SPORTS FLORIDA SUNS PROMOTIONS 2022** — Soundtrack, Multiples
- **BIG TEN NETWORK: TEN BIG YEARS 2015-2016** — Soundtrack, Multiples | Big Ten Network
- **CBS SPORTS SPECTACULAR** — BEACH VOLLEYBALL / COLLEGE GOLF / PURE SILK WOMEN’S GOLF / AUTO RACING | CBS
- **ESPN2: NCAA WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL** — Promo, Semi-Finals, Championship | ESPN
- **FOX COLLEGE FOOTBALL** — Soundtrack, Multiples | FOX Sports
- **MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL: TEXAS RANGERS** — Games/Post-Games Soundtrack | Fox Sports / Bally
- **NASCAR CUP SERIES & XFINITY RACING** — Soundtrack, Multiples | FOX Sports
- **NBC SKIING & SNOWBOARDING** — AUDI BIRDS OF PREY / ASPEN WINTER NATIONAL / PROGRESSION SESSION | NBC Sports
- **NFL FOOTBALL & FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL** — Soundtrack, Multiples | Fox Sports
- **PGA TOUR & PGA WEB.COM TOUR GOLF** — Soundtrack, Multiples | Golf Channel / USA Network

WEB SERIES & VIDEOGAMES

- **PRODUCER’S ROOM WITH DAVE TOUGH** — Multiples | Dave Tough, dir./prod./host | Tough Daddy Productions
- **RECORDING STUDIO ROCKSTARS** — Lij Shaw, dir./prod./host | Recording Studios Rockstars
- **PRODUCER’S ROOM – DAVE’S WAVS** — Multiples | Dave Tough, dir./prod./host | Tough Daddy Productions
- **TIC TAC TOY** — Multiples | Lucy & Jason Maxwell, dirs./prods. | YouTube
- **OFF THE ROAD (Videogame Soundtrack)** — Arpad Gabor Korda, dir./prod. | DogByte Games / Apple / Google

MUSIC VIDEOS (Selected)

- **BAREFOOT – Amanda Lamb** — Songwriter
- **BECAUSE I LOVE YOU – Angelina De Bem** — Writer, Producer
- **FALLING DOWN – X&O** — Songwriter, Producer, Performer
- **FAVORITE PART OF CHRISTMAS – X&O** — Songwriter, Producer, Performer
- **GIVE IT ALL - Angelina De Bem** — Songwriter, Producer
- **I NEED MONEY – X&O** — Songwriter, Performer, Producer
- **PASSING TRAIN – X&O** — Songwriter, Performer, Producer
- **SILENT CITY – The Lost Trailers** — Songwriter, Producer
- **SIX BILLION LONELY PEOPLE – X&O** — Songwriter, Performer, Producer
- **STOP THE TRAFFIC – X&O** — Songwriter, Performer, Producer
- **VEGAS (LET’S GO TO VEGAS) – Mandi Casteel, Tre Houston** — Songwriter, Producer

EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATION BY OTTO VAVRIN II

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & PARTICIPATIONS

- **National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS®)** — Member
- **American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP®)** — Member
- **Society of European Stage Authors and Composers (SESAC)** — Member
- **National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM)** — Moderator
- **Art of Record Production Conference, Berklee College of Music** — Panelist
- **Audio Engineering Society's 50th International Conference** — Panelist
- **Music City Commercial Music Extravaganza** — Panelist
- **Music and Entertainment Industry Educators Association Board** — Participant
- **NARAS® Grammy® Camp, Nashville** — Participant

PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

- **Tennessee State University** — Doctor of Education
- **Pepperdine University** — Master of Business Administration
- **University of North Texas State** — Bachelor of Arts