

billboard

Newsletters
Subscribe Now & Save



News ▾

Hot 100

Billboard 200

Charts ▾

Videos

Business

Style

Search Billboard 🔍

Raymour & Flanigan FURNITURE MATTRESSES



BEST BRANDS AT THE BEST PRICES

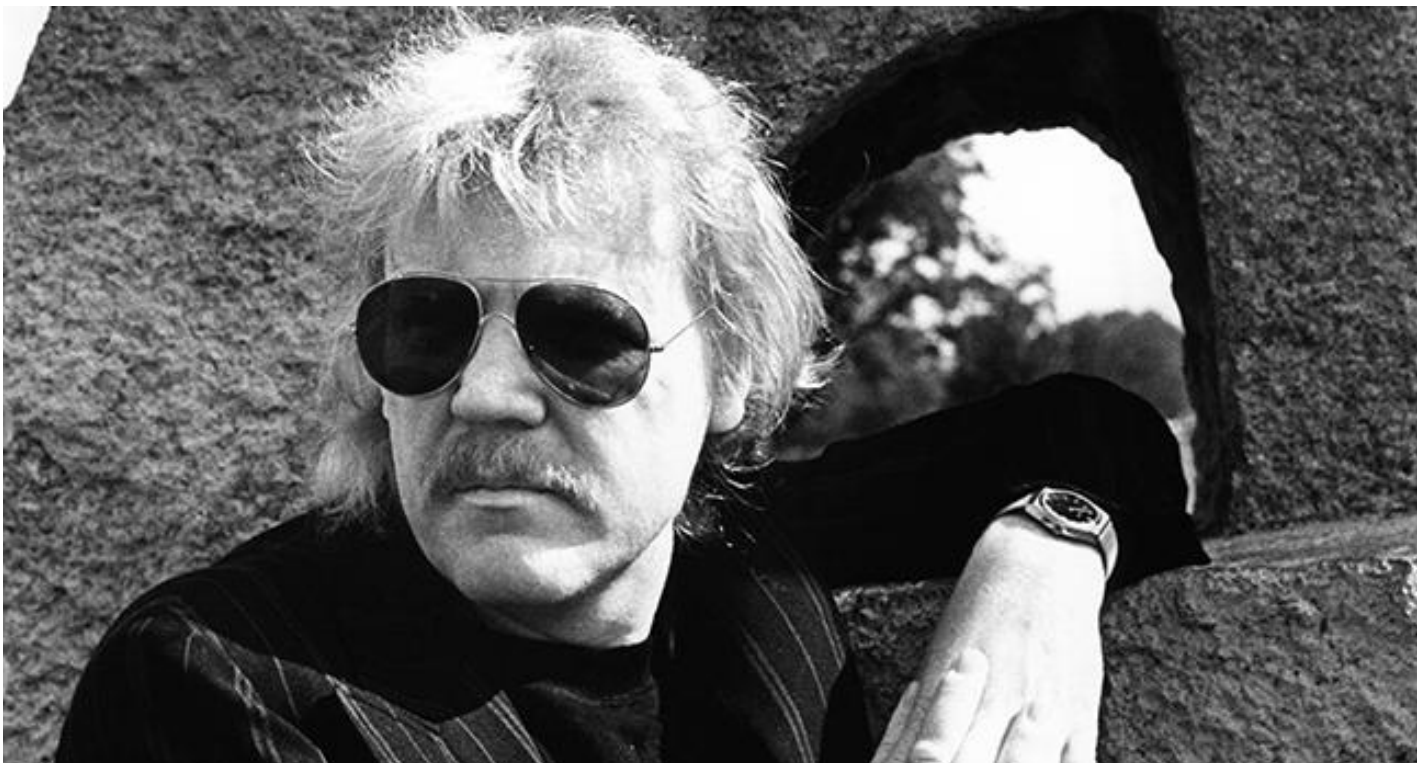
Shop Now ▶

Sale ends Monday, February 2

ARTICLES / NEWS

Exclusive: Michael Mann Mourns Collaborator Edgar Froese of Tangerine Dream

By [Michael Mann](#) | January 26, 2015 4:00 PM EST





Edgar Froese of Tangerine Dream photographed in Berlin in 1981.

Virginia Turbett/Redferns



49



35



15



Comments

The legendary director shares his memories of joining Tangerine Dream in their Berlin studio to craft the soundtrack to his first film 'Thief.'

I was shocked to hear about the loss of **Edgar Froese**. It seems as if we were working together about fifteen years ago, not thirty-five.

It was on my first picture, *Thief*, and Berlin was still a divided city. I had culled music ideas from [Tangerine Dream's](#) *Alpha Centauri* and *Phaedra*, that I referred to constantly during shooting. In post, after shipping a dupe of the film, many phone conversations and cues back and forth, we spent a week together on the final in their studio. Their studio was amazing. It was a gutted cinema near the Berlin Wall.

Earlier, I had been divided between choosing music regionally native to *Thief*, Chicago Blues, or going with a completely electronic score. The choice was intimidating because two very different motion picture experiences would result. Right then, the work of Tangerine Dream, [Kraftwerk](#) and Faust was an explosion of experimental and rich material from a young generation coming of age out of the



2014 Clearance Sale

Top Washing Machines



Up to 45% off

See Prices

Sale ends at 11:59PST

On the charts

ruins and separating itself from WWII Germany. It was the cutting edge of electronic music. And, it had content. It wasn't sonic atmospheres. There was nothing in the UK or the States like it.

Tangerine Dream's Edgar Froese Dead at 70

Further, there was a relationship between the blues and Froese because he had started out as a blues guitarist. Even though their music was electronic, it had a twelve bar blues structure to most of it. More importantly he, as an artist and a man, was connected to the material reality of life on the street and he found musical inspiration there, as does the Blues. Culturally, he was attuned to the politics of the '60s and '70s. Berlin was still steeped in its recent history and its history... the Wall, shrapnel damage to building facades...was still evident.

The score was adventurous with some real voyages of discovery. Working with analog sequencers and synthesizers we were also processing sound effects, which I had brought in a suitcase on mag, so that ocean waves might crash in G Major, the same key as the cue. It was a wonderful artistic collaboration. Thinking back to what was at the time cutting edge technology but so primitive now, it was more fun. They were innovating processes and re-combining components to do stuff on frontiers that Moog never envisioned, as new ideas showed up.

It was Edgar's open spirit and embrace of possibilities that made it all occur. A somewhat unique soundtrack for its time was the result. Working together with band-mates Johannes Schmoelling and Christopher Franke with Froese in the lead in a gutted movie theater, hard by the Berlin Wall, it seems like not so long ago and it was the best of times.

Heartfelt condolences to his family and to all the talented people who knew him and worked with him over the years....

NEW AGE ALBUMS

Aug 21, 1999



Mars Polaris
Tangerine Dream

[View Chart](#)

Sign up for
our daily newsletter.

Enter your email address

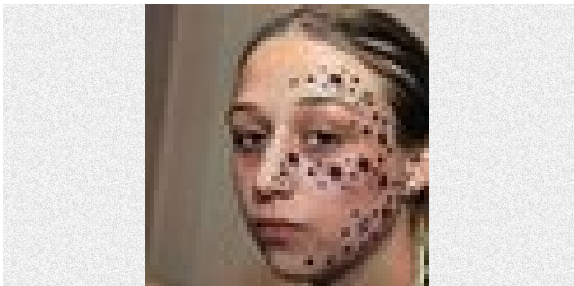
[Sign Up](#)



Buffett Admits This is a "Real Threat"

One emerging technology has Warren Buffett himself admitting that there's a serious threat to his empire... [continued](#)





Sundance 2015



HEADLINES

[Kurt Cobain Doc, Iggy Azalea & Scott Weiland Top Music Events](#)

[Iggy Talks Haters, Career Longevity & Taking Inspiration From Madonna](#)

[Next Gen at Sundance Party Announced by](#)





[4 Comments](#)

www.billboard.com

Sort by Best ▾



Join the discussion...



Mac II • 19 hours ago

TD's

"Thief" soundtrack was revolutionary as were many of the filming techniques created and implemented by Mann. (i.e. wet streets and filters to film night scenes during daylight) Still think "Diamond Diary" is one of the best opening tracks to a movie score ever. "Scrapyard" and "Beach Theme" are killer tracks too. It was great to see that Froese still included all 3 of these from time to time in various

live sets over the last couple decades! Thank you Edgar Froese! – All the younger fans of today's music probably don't realize that they have you to thank for many of the sequencing, sampling, and recording, techniques used in today's world of music and recording. You were a true pioneer! RIP!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Mahmood Safari** · a day ago

I first heard TD music on a classic movie special program on TV called Cinema 1, showing 2006 & was instantly mesmerized by those trademark rush moody synthesizer beats & soa In fact I approached Tangerine Dream music for collecting & listening to a top 10 album set a fan, researching, listening & collecting for hours, days, months & to this day 5 years. After his music to every friend could find interested & the reflections were always positive towards told me this is special & never has listened to such impressive & thoughtful music like this.

RIP Dear Edgar,
My deepest condolence goes to son Jerome & wife Bianca.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Jerry Tapp** · 2 days ago

I am such a big fan of Michael Mann and Tangerine Dream; my introduction to the group was absolutely stunning movie with an equally hypnotic soundtrack. Movie-making and music at i underrated features (movie and music) of all-time.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Susan Baldwin** → Jerry Tapp · a day ago

I totally agree, with the movie Thief, loved loved loved the movie and music....Michael Dream are fabulous together, and it just so happened, I watched the movie, last wee underrated, and to this day, it remains one of my favorites.....

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

News and Features



List

Top 50 'Love' Songs of All Time



List

Heartbreak Hits: Top 30 Breakup Songs



Chart Beat

Top 50 Movie Songs Of All Time



Photos

Music Photos of 2015

billboard + 

EMERGING ARTISTS
REAL-TIME CHART

DISCOVER YOUR
NEXT FAVORITE
ARTIST



Magazine

[Customer Service](#)

[Subscribe](#)










[Buy this issue](#)

Billboard biz

The online extension of Billboard magazine, www.billboard.com/biz is the essential online destination for the music business.

[Learn more](#)

Sharing Billboard

-  [Facebook](#)
-  [Twitter](#)
-  [Google+](#)
-  [YouTube](#)
-  [Instagram](#)
-  [Tumblr](#)
-  [Pinterest](#)
-  [Spotify](#)
-  [Newsletter](#)

Explore Billboard

- [About Billboard](#)
- [Shop](#)
- [News Archive](#)
- [Photos Archive](#)
- [Videos Archive](#)
- [Magazine Archive](#)
- [Charts Archive](#)

Information

- [Mobile](#)
- [Billboard Events](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Sitemap](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Feedback](#)
- [Lyrics](#)

billboard

backstage  sonicbids

© 2015 Billboard. All Rights Reserved.

[Terms of Use](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Advertising](#)