

**Michael Zager**  
**Eminent Scholar and Director, Commercial Music Program**  
**Florida Atlantic University**  
**BIO**

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Michael Zager holds the positions of the Dorothy F. Schmidt Eminent Scholar in Performing Arts, Professor of Music and Director of the Commercial Music Program (Department of Music) at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. Zager began his tenure at FAU in 2002. He previously taught at Mannes College The New School for Music (The New School University). Zager is a graduate of the University of Miami and Mannes College The New School for Music (The New School University). He received four Fulbright Specialist grants awarded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs; eight Visiting Professor grants in Thailand and one Visiting Professor grant in Vietnam; he also served three terms as a member of the Board of Governors of the Florida Chapter of The Recording Academy (Grammy® Awards). In 2018, he was inducted in the Legends of Vinyl Artists Hall of Fame.

Zager is the author of two editions of *Music Production: A Manual for Producers, Composers, Arranger, and Students* (published by Scarecrow Press, Inc.) and three editions of *Writing Music for Television and Radio Commercials (and more): A Manual for Composers and Students* (published by The Scarecrow Press, Inc.). Rowman & Littlefield published *Writing Music for Commercials: Television, Radio, and New Media*.

He composed, arranged, and produced original music in a broad range of musical idioms, including albums, commercials, television, and source and theme music for major motion pictures.

Zager produced Grammy Award–winning artists: Whitney Houston, Cissy Houston, Peabo Bryson, Luther Vandross, Denise Williams, Jennifer Holliday, Joe Williams, Arturo Sandoval, Herb Alpert, Olatunji, and six-time Grammy Award nominees The Spinners and Grammy nominee Johnny “Guitar” Watson. Some of his original scores and original studio recordings of Whitney Houston, The Spinners, and The Michael Zager Band reside in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, Ohio.

His recording awards for producing, composing, and arranging include: 15 gold or platinum records; a Golden Boot Award (France); Europe 1 Award (France); Olé Award (Spain); 2 BMI Citations of Achievement, presented for most performed songs on radio in a given year; a Grammy Award nomination for “Cupid/I’ve Loved You for a Long Time,” performed by The Spinners, three Recording Academy (Grammys) Participation Certificates, and a nomination for Producer of the Year by the Golden Music Awards, in Nashville. Zager produced Daniel Ray Edwards, which was nominated for a Golden Music Award for best new artist, as well as “You Win Again,” which received a Golden Music Award nomination for single of the year. The Golden Music Award also nominated his label for Best Independent Record Label of the Year.

Zager's television awards include a Platinum Video Award for the ABC Television Network series: ABC FUNFIT with Mary Lou Retton and a Daytime Emmy Award for ABC FUNFIT with Mary Lou Retton. Jay-Z, 50 Cent, Missy Elliott, and many more artists have sampled his songs.

He composed and arranged more than 400 commercials. His clients included Dr Pepper; MCI; Masterlock; Cablevision; Buick; Acura; IBM; Schlitz Malt Liquor (sung by Kool & the Gang; The Spinners; .38 Special, and The Chi-Lites); Bounce (sung by Whitney Houston); Crystal Light (sung by Raquel Welch); Budweiser; Crest; Kodak; Ivory Shampoo; Maxwell House Coffee; Clearasil; Lancôme; Volvo; Burger King; Os-Cal (featuring Olympic Gold Medalist Peggy Fleming), and Burlington Coat Factory.

Zager's advertising awards include a Clio Award; three International Film Festival Awards; three Art Directors Club awards, and a Mobius Advertising award.