

## Port St. Lucie 'City of Dreams' composer, soundtrack win at L.A. Music Awards

By Kim Hughes

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PORT ST. LUCIE — For the second consecutive year, Port St. Lucie resident Mark Barnes was named "Composer of the Year" at the Los Angeles Music Awards in Hollywood, Calif.

This year, he has his hometown to thank.

Barnes' work on "City of Dreams," a docudrama of the life, times and people of Port St. Lucie, resulted in his being recognized for his talents and garnered the "Soundtrack of the Year" award. Both awards were announced at a ceremony on Nov. 10.

Barnes called the recognition "a major honor" and said having the opportunity to work on a project connected with the city he calls home was particularly meaningful.

"I did have an attachment that made me feel really good about it," he said.

Barnes said Richard McAfoos, chairman of the Port St. Lucie Historical Society, wanted something "uplifting."

Although inspiration was initially slow to come, Barnes said, "All of a sudden, within a half an hour, the entire theme song was done."

Upon hearing a sample of what Barnes had created, McAfoos said, "I was almost stunned. It was so beautiful."

Although Barnes has worked in the music industry for many years, the "City of Dreams" theme song is the first he's composed that has lyrics and vocals.

Barnes said he was pleased when McAfoos told him he had asked Carol Connors, a well-known songwriter who co-wrote the "Gonna Fly Now" theme to "Rocky," to write the lyrics. Barnes said his immediate reaction was: "She's a classic and she wants to write lyrics to my song — oh yeah!"

McAfoos was thrilled the soundtrack had been singled out to win its category.

"I was ecstatic because this is national recognition," he said.

The soundtrack CD, the theme song and a music video featuring the theme song are up for consideration in this year's preliminary Grammy Award categories.

McAfoos said earning recognition at the L.A. Music Awards could provide a boost on the road to the Grammys, explaining "This network of people is so intertwined."

While thankful for the recognition, Barnes said that for him, creating music is "not about the awards. It's the journey and who you can share it with."

### **How to get "City of Dreams"**

For more information on the docudrama or to get your copy of the "City of Dreams" movie soundtrack CD or docudrama DVD, visit the Port St. Lucie Historical Society website at [www.pslhistory.org](http://www.pslhistory.org).

