

= Stargate ( production team ) =

Stargate is a Norwegian record producing and songwriting team , composed of Tor Erik Hermansen ( born 14 October 1972 ) and Mikkel Storleer Eriksen ( born in 1972 ) , based in New York City . The team 's genres include R & B , pop , dance @-@ pop , Europop and hip hop . Stargate was established in Trondheim , Norway .

Stargate broke into the American recording industry in 2006 , with the release of the Billboard Hot 100 No. 1 single , " So Sick " , produced and co @-@ written by the team and performed by Ne @-@ Yo . They also produced and co @-@ wrote Beyoncé 's worldwide hit single " Irreplaceable " , which topped the Billboard Hot 100 for 10 consecutive weeks . Throughout their career they have been noted for their extensive work with Rihanna , writing and producing four consecutive Billboard Hot 100 No. 1 singles with the Barbadian singer in 2010 and 2011 . They have together written 12 No. 1 singles in the U.S. and 11 in the UK .

= = Formation and early works = =

Stargate began in 1997 as a song @-@ writing trio in Trondheim , Norway , consisting of Tor Erik Hermansen , Mikkel Storleer Eriksen , and Hallgeir Rustan . When they first met , Hermansen was a talent scout for the Norwegian branch of the record label Warner Music Group , Eriksen owned a studio , and Rustan was a mechanical engineer before becoming involved in music . One of their first successful productions was with Norwegian R & B singer Noora Noor . Her first album " Curious " was produced in their Trondheim studio . Noora Noor was signed to the Norwegian branch of the record label Warner Music Group . Her main hit from this album " Need You " was released throughout Europe and gave Stargate attention from the UK music industry . While in Norway , they ventured into the British market , mostly writing songs for R & B @-@ pop performers . At this time they called the team Stargate , a name specifically established for their projects in the United Kingdom .

The team 's initial successes was in the British market . Stargate 's first international success came with British pop outfit S Club , whose 1999 single " S Club Party " reached No. 1 in Australia and New Zealand . This success was followed with another British pop group , Hear 'Say 's single " The Way To Your Love " , which peaked at No. 1 in the United Kingdom in 2001 . The team has also produced many Top 10 hits in the United Kingdom for acts such as Blue , Mis @-@ Teeq and Atomic Kitten , and worked with European acts Javine , Shola Ama , Five , and Samantha Mumba .

The team had been listening to American hits and " trying to measure up " . They remixed American hip @-@ hop and R & B songs , adding layers of melody to suit the European radio audience . In the wake of their early successes , the team had to choose whether to remain in Norway or move to pursue their goals : " We knew that to make the records we really wanted to make , we had to go to America . " Hermansen and Eriksen chose to produce records in the United States , while Rustan preferred to remain a producer in Norway because he did not want to leave his family behind .

In 2001 , Stargate produced and co @-@ wrote songs for American pop singer Mikaila 's self @-@ titled debut album . " So in Love With Two " , a track from the album , had reached No. 25 on the US Billboard Hot 100 , becoming one of the team 's earliest co @-@ written singles that appeared on the US charts . It was followed three years later with Mis @-@ Teeq 's " Scandalous " , which peaked at No. 35 on the Hot 100 and No. two in the United Kingdom .

In the spring of 2005 , Eriksen and Hermansen settled in New York . Initially , their work was slow until they met singer @-@ songwriter Ne @-@ Yo in a hallway at Sony Music Studios in New York . Ne @-@ Yo , who had been working on his debut album , In My Own Words , decided to collaborate with the team , aware that Stargate produced R & B records . After listening to each other 's music , a songwriting session ensued and spawned in its second day the song " So Sick " , which later topped the Billboard Hot 100 and ushered Stargate into American pop songwriting .

= = Notable collaborations = =

Stargate and Ne @-@ Yo collaborated on the hit single " Unfaithful " for Barbadian singer Rihanna 's 2006 album A Girl Like Me . In the same year , Stargate again collaborated with Ne @-@ Yo for the single " Irreplaceable " , recorded by American singer Beyoncé Knowles . The single topped the Billboard Hot 100 for ten consecutive weeks in 2007 . Also in 2006 , Stargate and Taj Jackson gave American singer @-@ songwriter Lionel Richie his first R & B hit , " I Call It Love " , in 10 years .

With the team 's contributions to music , Stargate emerged as the No. 1 hot producer on the 2006 Billboard Year End Chart . In the following year , Stargate received a Spellemann ( Norwegian Grammy ) . The team received three awards at the ASCAP Pop Music Awards 2007 in Los Angeles , for the songs " So Sick " , " Sexy Love " and " Unfaithful " ; and two awards at the ASCAP Rhythm & Soul Awards 2007 for " So Sick " and " Sexy Love " . They were named Songwriters of the Year at the 2007 ASCAP / PRS in London , receiving nine awards including Song of the Year for " So Sick " .

In 2007 , " Beautiful Liar " , a duet between Knowles and Colombian singer Shakira , became another hit for Stargate , reaching No. 1 in more than 30 countries including the United Kingdom . The song earned Hermansen and Eriksen the Ivor Novello Award for Best @-@ Selling British song . Although " Beautiful Liar " is chiefly an American song , it includes British songwriters Amanda Ghost and Ian Dench , thus eligible for the award .

At the 2008 ASCAP Pop Music Awards , Hermansen and Eriksen received five awards for most performed songs , including " Irreplaceable " among the top five . Stargate was named Best Hitmakers in Rolling Stone magazine 's " Best of Rock 2008 " . Eriksen and Hermansen received Grammy nominations for five separate songs in six categories for the 2008 Grammy Awards , including Record of the Year for " Irreplaceable " , Best R & B Song for " Hate That I Love You " and Best Dance Record for " Don 't Stop The Music " .

On Ne @-@ Yo 's third solo @-@ album , Year of the Gentleman , Stargate have produced and co @-@ written four songs , among them the singles " Closer " and " Miss Independent " , the latter of which had reached No. 1 on the Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs . Stargate received nominations in more than 10 categories for the 2009 Grammy Awards . They won their first Grammy in 2009 in the Best R & B Song category for " Miss Independent " , performed by Ne @-@ Yo .

Stargate produced " Black and Yellow " for rapper Wiz Khalifa in 2010 , a song that reached No. 1 in the Billboard U.S Charts , and Sean Kingstons " Letting Go " . They produced four No. 1 singles for Barbadian recording artist Rihanna including " Rude Boy " , " Only Girl ( In The World ) " , " What 's My Name ? " and " S & M " . Stargate co @-@ wrote and co @-@ produced Owl City 's single " Shooting Star " which was released on the Shooting Star EP on May 15 , 2012 .

In 2015 , Stargate produced together with Rik Simpson the Coldplay album A Head Full of Dreams .

= = Other ventures = =

Stargate teamed @-@ up with American hip hop mogul Jay @-@ Z to launch the record label StarRoc . The label , which is based at Jay @-@ Z 's Roc The Mic studio in Manhattan , will be a 50 / 50 partnership with the team and Jay @-@ Z 's entertainment company Roc Nation . Eriksen and Hermansen 's connection with Jay @-@ Z , who was then the CEO of the record label Def Jam , began with the release of " So Sick " . They met through Ty Ty Smith , A & R from record label Def Jam and a long @-@ time friend of Jay @-@ Z.

In addition to their new venture , Eriksen signed a global co @-@ publishing deal with EMI Music Publishing . According to Music Week , his relationship with EMI will further the publishing company 's involvement on Stargate 's future projects . Prior to the deal , EMI has been involved with Hermansen 's projects for nearly ten years since he signed a deal in 1999 . Hermansen and Eriksen will also continue their joint @-@ venture partnership , Stellar Songs , with EMI .

Mikkel Eriksen owns part of the Norwegian clothing firm JohnnyLove which they are trying to introduce to the American market . On the American launch party in New York on the 12th of October 2011 Jay @-@ Z came to show his support and stated to the reporter that he was " a little bit Norwegian , as I am sure you know " .

Tor Erik Hermansen owns one third of the award @-@ winning Norwegian St. Lars restaurant in Oslo together with international TV @-@ chef Andreas Viestad and Face2Face @-@ founder Per Meland . Queen Sonja of Norway and the former Norwegian prime minister Jens Stoltenberg are regular guests . The owners have tried to bring some of the ambience from the New York @-@ restaurant The Spotted Pig , owned by Stargate 's StarRoc @-@ partner Jay @-@ Z , to the restaurant .

= = Influences and style = =

Stargate chiefly produces songs in the genres ; R & B , pop , dance @-@ pop , Europop and hip hop music .

Hermansen and Eriksen grew up as R & B and hip hop fanatics in Norwegian suburbs , where most children listen to Europop and American rock . Their interest in music started in the 1980s with breakdance and rap . Eriksen and Hermansen were raised on pop music , growing up listening to music of 1970s pop group ABBA and Germany @-@ based pop outfit Boney M. In an article by The New York Times , Barry Weiss , president of Jive Records , who had hired Stargate to produce songs , " Those influences lend themselves to them making very melodic pop records , with great hooks and choruses . " According to the team , they have always loved American music , citing acts such as Prince , Michael Jackson , Usher , Destiny 's Child , and R. Kelly and the English band Depeche Mode as their inspiration . The team also cited producers Antonio " L.A. " Reid and Kenneth " Babyface " Edmonds of the 1980s R & B band The Deele , and R & B @-@ pop production team Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis as their early influences .

In their usual production style , Stargate first creates an instrumental backing track ? also common in pop and hip hop productions ? from which a collaborator would write lyrics and add vocal melody into . In an interview with About.com , the team explained their style :

We always start out with a musical idea . Great effort goes into creating a solid melodic core . We both play the keyboards and program , but in general Mikkel plays the instruments and controls Pro Tools , while Tor has the executive overlook as well as lyrical input . However , we both are hands on and have no rules or limitations . When we have some killer beats and musical starting points , we hook up with one of our favorite topline writers , who gets cracking on the lyrics and melody . We make sure there 's a lot of melody in the track , so it can inspire the writer . Together with the topline writer we work , often tweek and simplify the song , and never quit before we feel we 've got a killer hook .

Ben Sisario of The New York Times described Stargate 's music as " sugary , lilting R & B in the Michael Jackson vein leavened with the kind of melody @-@ rich European pop that paints everything in bright primary colors ... Their work carries on a tradition of Scandinavian bubble @-@ gum artistry that stretches from Abba to Max Martin " . Sisario added that , unlike other 's producers in the United States , " Stargate signature is more difficult to detect , because to some degree the duo 's style is an adaptable method , not a specific sound " . Steve Lunt , an A & R executive at Atlantic Records , pointed out , however , that " if you put a bunch of Stargate songs together you will see the thread running through them " .

= = Critical reception = =

Critics found some of Stargate 's succeeding works a replica of " Irreplaceable " ' s musical formula . Sheffield commented that , in the song " Tattoo " by Sparks , the team " have no shame about churning out ' Irreplaceable ' replicants forever " , reprising the acoustic guitar @-@ drum loop formula . The New York Times music critic Kelefa Sanneh deemed it " sounds like a cousin " of " Irreplaceable " . The release of R & B singer Chris Brown 's 2007 single " With You " produced similar impressions : Sheffield , in his review for Brown 's album , noted that " Stargate was just trying to roll out ' Irreplaceable ' one more time " . Hillary Crosley of Billboard magazine wrote that " With You " " leans a bit too heavily " toward " Irreplaceable " . Stylus Magazine also noted that Rihanna 's Stargate produced single , " Hate That I Love You " was a rehash of Ne @-@ Yo and

Stargate 's previous works saying , " Here you 've got the ' Sexy Love ' drums , the ' Irreplaceable ' strum , and a bit of the synth and chorus melody from ' So Sick ' ... is hardly the new twist all these old bits need to sound fresh . "

= = Discography = =

For a complete list , see Stargate production discography

= = = Top ten singles = = =

The following singles peaked inside the top ten on the Billboard Hot 100 and / or the UK Singles Chart .

1999 : " S Club Party " ( S Club 7 )  
1999 : " Always Come Back to Your Love " ( Samantha Mumba )  
1999 : " Two in a Million " ( S Club 7 )  
2000 : " Day & Night " ( Billie Piper )  
2000 : " Mama - Who Da Man ? " ( Richard Blackwood )  
2000 : " Sweet Love 2K " ( Fierce )  
2000 : " The Way to Your Love " ( Hear 'Say )  
2001 : " One Night Stand " ( Mis @-@ Teeq )  
2001 : " All Rise " ( Blue )  
2002 : " Sorry Seems to Be the Hardest Word " ( Blue featuring Elton John )  
2002 : " The Last Goodbye " ( Atomic Kitten )  
2003 : " Scandalous " ( Mis @-@ Teeq )  
2003 : " Real Things " ( Javine )  
2004 : " Love You Like Mad " ( VS )  
2004 : " Eyes on You " ( Jay Sean )  
2004 : " Stolen " ( Jay Sean )  
2006 : " Sexy Love " ( Ne @-@ Yo )  
2006 : " So Sick " ( Ne @-@ Yo )  
2006 : " Unfaithful " ( Rihanna )  
2006 : " Irreplaceable " ( Beyoncé )  
2007 : " Beautiful Liar " ( Beyoncé & Shakira )  
2007 : " Because of You " ( Ne @-@ Yo )  
2007 : " Hate That I Love You " ( Rihanna featuring Ne @-@ Yo )  
2007 : " Don 't Stop the Music " ( Rihanna )  
2007 : " Tattoo " ( Jordin Sparks )  
2007 : " With You " ( Chris Brown )  
2008 : " Take a Bow " ( Rihanna )  
2008 : " Closer " ( Ne @-@ Yo )  
2008 : " Mad " ( Ne @-@ Yo )  
2010 : " Rude Boy " ( Rihanna )  
2010 : " Beautiful Monster " ( Ne @-@ Yo )  
2010 : " Happiness " ( Alexis Jordan )  
2010 : " Only Girl ( In the World ) " ( Rihanna )  
2010 : " What 's My Name ? " ( Rihanna featuring Drake )  
2010 : " Firework " ( Katy Perry )  
2011 : " Black and Yellow " ( Wiz Khalifa )  
2011 : " S & M " ( Rihanna )  
2011 : " Good Girl " ( Alexis Jordan )  
2011 : " I 'm Into You " ( Jennifer Lopez featuring Lil Wayne )  
2012 : " R.I.P. " ( Rita Ora featuring Tinie Tempah )  
2012 : " Let Me Love You ( Until You Learn to Love Yourself ) " ( Ne @-@ Yo )

2012 : " Diamonds " ( Rihanna )  
2013 : " Come & Get It " ( Selena Gomez )  
2013 : " The Fox " ( Ylvis )  
2014 : " Black Widow " ( Iggy Azalea featuring Rita Ora )  
2015 : " Worth It " ( Fifth Harmony featuring Kid Ink )  
2015 : " Same Old Love " ( Selena Gomez )  
2015 : " Adventure of a Lifetime " ( Coldplay )  
2016 : " Hymn for the Weekend " ( Coldplay )  
2016 : " Write On Me " ( Fifth Harmony )