

Hugo Mario Montenegro (September 2, 1925 – February 6, 1981) was an American orchestra leader and composer of film and television show soundtracks as well as several albums under his own name. He was an early adopter of the Moog synthesizer. His best-known works are interpretations of music from Spaghetti Westerns, especially his cover version of Ennio Morricone's main theme from the 1966 film *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*, and original compositions or musical arrangements for *Charro!*, *Bunny Lake Is Missing*, *Hurry Sundown*, *The Wrecking Crew*, and other films, as well as the opening title song for seasons 2-5 of *I Dream of Jeannie*, and music for *The Monkees*, *Gidget*, *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*, *The Partridge Family*, and others. He was nominated for a Grammy for "Hurry Sundown" in 1967 and an Emmy for *The Outcasts* in 1969. Montenegro passed away at the young age of 55 in Palm Springs in 1981. He was laid to rest in Welwood Murray Cemetery (Palm Springs) and left behind his wife Cathy and two children. His services were held at St. Theresa Catholic Church (Palm Springs). An article about his funeral stated, "Stevie Wonder once said that on an album Montenegro released in 1974 the composer-conductor had 'taken what I write, play and sing about to an even higher level of expression.'"