

# THE BEATLES

## ROCKBAND

The Beatles were an English rock band, formed in Liverpool in 1960 by John Lennon. From 1962 the group consisted of John Lennon (rhythm guitar, vocals), Paul McCartney (bass guitar, vocals), George Harrison (lead guitar, vocals) and Ringo Starr (drums, vocals).

The friends couldn't decide how to call for a long time. Name variants were "Johnny and the Moondogs", "Long John and The Beetles" and "The Silver Beatles". For the last time John thought about "The Beetles", but it sounded dull. So he decided to replace the second "e" on "a". The word sounded in the same way, but there were some changes on writing. Besides there was a root "beat", which designated beat-music.

On October 24, 1962, the song *Love Me Do* was sung by the Beatles. It was the first of a number of big hits that brought them world fame.

The road to success was not easy. John and Paul had spent many afternoons listening to American stars like Chuck Berry and Elvis Presley before they were able to write the famous Lennon and McCartney songs.

During the 1960s the Beatles were at the height of their glory: newspapers headlines, films and world-tours. Their new style of singing and their unusual haircuts – *Beatles mops!* – immediately became the latest fashion.

After a decade of successful music and films, the Beatles had some disagreements and finally decided to break up in the early seventies. Many people hoped that there would be a reunion, but it became impossible after the tragic murder of John Lennon in New York in 1980.



# MADONNA



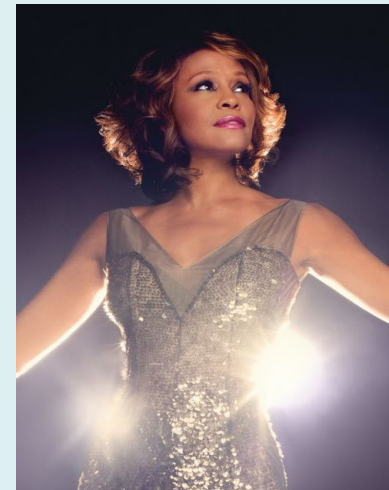
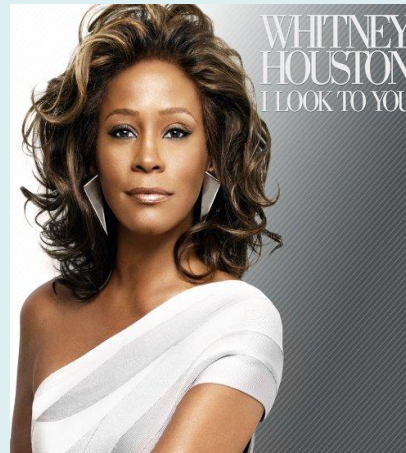
**Madonna Louise Ciccone (born August 16, 1958) is an American singer-songwriter, actress and entrepreneur. One of the world's greatest cultural icons for over three decades, she has achieved an unprecedented level of power and control for a woman in the entertainment industry. Madonna is known for continuously reinventing both her music and image, and for retaining a standard of autonomy within the recording industry. She attained immense popularity by pushing the boundaries of lyrical content in mainstream popular music and imagery in her music videos, which became a fixture on MTV. Music critics have praised her diverse and innovative musical productions which have also been known to induce controversy. Cited as an influence among numerous artists around the world, she is often referred to as the "Queen of Pop".**



# WHITNEY HOUSTON



Whitney Elizabeth Houston (August 9, 1963 – February 11, 2012) was an American recording artist, singer, actress, producer, and model. In 2009, the *Guinness World Records* cited her as the most awarded female act of all time. Houston was one of the world's best-selling music artists, having sold over 200 million records worldwide. She released six studio albums, one holiday album and three movie soundtrack albums, all of which have diamond, multi-platinum, platinum or gold certification. Houston's crossover appeal on the popular music charts, as well as her prominence on MTV, starting with her video for “How Will I Know”, influenced several African American women artists who follow in her footsteps.



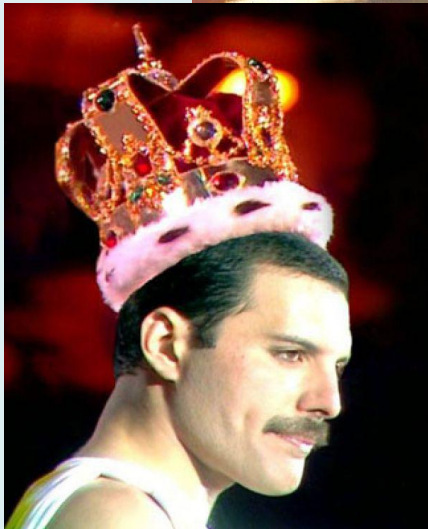
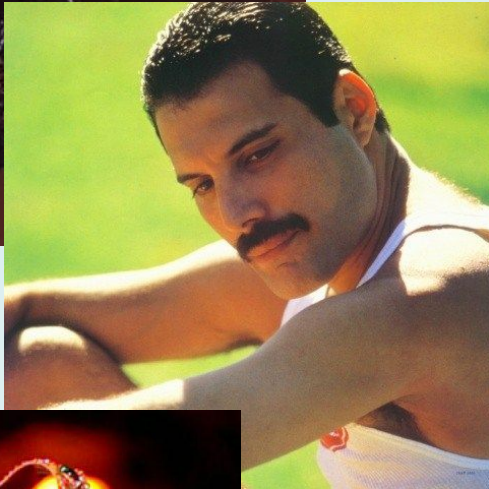
# MICHAEL JACKSON



**Michael Joseph Jackson** (August 29, 1958 – June 25, 2009)<sup>1</sup> was an American recording artist, actor, producer, dancer, businessman, and philanthropist. Often referred to by the honorific nickname "The King of Pop", his contributions to music, dance, and fashion, along with his publicized personal life, made him a global figure in popular culture for over four decades.

The eighth child of the Jackson family, he debuted on the professional music scene along with his brothers as a member of The Jackson 5 in 1964, and began his solo career in 1971. In the early 1980s, Jackson became a dominant figure in popular music. Through stage and video performances, Jackson popularized a number of complicated dance techniques, such as the robot and the moonwalk, to which he gave the name. His distinctive sound and style has influenced numerous hip hop, post-disco, contemporary R&B, pop, and rock artists. Jackson's 1982 album *Thriller* is the best-selling album of all time. His other albums, including *Off the Wall* (1979), *Bad* (1987), *Dangerous* (1991), and *History* (1995), also rank among the world's best-selling. Jackson is one of the few artists to have been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame twice. He was also inducted into the Dance Hall of Fame as the first and only dancer from pop and rock music. Some of his other achievements include multiple Guinness World Records; 13 Grammy Awards as well as the Grammy Legend Award and the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award; 26 American Music Awards, more than any other artist, including the "Artist of the Century" and "Artist of the 1980s"; 13 number-one singles in the United States in his solo career, more than any other male artist in the Hot 100 era; and the estimated sale of over 400 million records worldwide. Jackson has won hundreds of awards, making him the most-awarded recording artist in the history of popular music. In what would have been Jackson's 52nd birthday on August 29, 2010, he became the most downloaded artist of all time. Jackson constantly traveled the world attending events honoring his humanitarianism and the 2000 Guinness Book of Records recognized him for supporting 39 charities.

# FREDDIE MERCURY



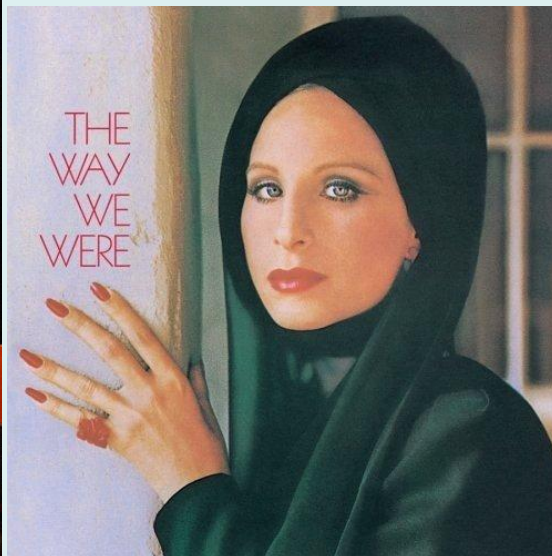
Freddie Mercury (born 5 September 1946 – 24 November 1991) was a British musician, singer, and songwriter, best known as the lead vocalist and lyricist of the rock band Queen. As a performer, he was known for his flamboyant stage persona and powerful vocals over a four-octave range. As a songwriter, Mercury composed many hits for Queen, including "Bohemian Rhapsody", "Killer Queen", "Somebody to Love", "Don't Stop Me Now", "Crazy Little Thing Called Love", and "We Are the Champions". In addition to his work with Queen, he led a solo career, and also occasionally served as a producer and guest musician (piano or vocals) for other artists. He died of bronchopneumonia brought on by AIDS on 24 November 1991, only one day after publicly acknowledging that he had the disease.

Mercury was a Parsi born in Zanzibar and grew up there and in India until his mid-teens. Posthumously, in 1992 he was awarded the Brit Award for Outstanding Contribution to Music, and the Freddie Mercury Tribute Concert was held at Wembley Stadium, London. As a member of Queen, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2001, the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2003, the UK Music Hall of Fame in 2004, and the band received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2002. In 2002, Mercury was placed at number 58 in the BBC's poll of the 100 Greatest Britons. He continues to be voted one of the greatest singers in the history of popular music. In 2005, a poll organized by *Blender* and MTV2 saw Mercury voted the greatest male singer of all time. In 2008, *Rolling Stone* editors ranked him number 18 on their list of the 100 greatest singers of all time. In 2009, a *Classic Rock* poll saw him voted the greatest rock singer of all time. All music has characterized Mercury as "one of rock's greatest all-time entertainers", who possessed "one of the greatest voices in music"

# BARBRA STREISAND

Barbra Joan Streisand (born Barbara Joan Streisand; April 24, 1942) is an American singer-songwriter, author, actress, writer, film producer, and director. She has won two Academy Awards, eight Grammy Awards, five Emmy Awards including one Daytime Emmy, a Special Tony Award, an American Film Institute award, a Kennedy Center Honors award, a Peabody Award, and is one of the few entertainers who have won an Oscar, Emmy, Grammy, and Tony Award.

She is one of the best selling female artists of all time, with more than 71.5 million albums shipped in the United States and 145 million records sold worldwide. She is the best-selling female artist on the Recording Industry Association of America's (RIAA) Top Selling Album Artists list, the only female recording artist in the top ten, and the only artist outside of the rock and roll genre.



# STEVIE WONDER



Stevland Hardaway Morris (born May 13, 1950 as Stevland Hardaway Judkins), known by his stage name Stevie Wonder, is an American musician, singer-songwriter, record producer, and multi-instrumentalist. A child prodigy, he has become one of the most creative and loved musical performers of the late 20th century. Wonder signed with Motown's Tamla label at the age of eleven and continues to perform and record for Motown as of the early 2010s. He has been blind since shortly after birth.

Among Wonder's works are singles such as "Superstition", "Sir Duke", "You Are the Sunshine of My Life" and "I Just Called to Say I Love You"; and albums such as *Talking Book*, *Innervisions* and *Songs in the Key of Life*. He has recorded more than thirty U.S. top ten hits and received twenty-two Grammy Awards, the most ever awarded to a male solo artist, and has sold over 100 million albums and singles, making him one of the top 60 best-selling music artists. Wonder is also noted for his work as an activist for political causes, including his 1980 campaign to make Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a holiday in the United States. In 2009, Wonder was named a United Nations Messenger of Peace. In 2008, *Billboard* magazine released a list of the Hot 100 All-Time Top Artists to celebrate the US singles chart's fiftieth anniversary, with Wonder at number five.

# LOUIS ARMSTRONG

Louis Armstrong (August 4, 1901 – July 6, 1971), nicknamed Satchmo or Pops, was an American jazz trumpeter and singer from New Orleans, Louisiana.

Coming to prominence in the 1920s as an "inventive" trumpet and cornet player, Armstrong was a foundational influence in jazz, shifting the focus of the music from collective improvisation to solo performance. With his instantly recognizable gravelly voice, Armstrong was also an influential singer, demonstrating great dexterity as an improviser, bending the lyrics and melody of a song for expressive purposes. He was also skilled at scat singing (vocalizing using sounds and syllables instead of actual lyrics).

Renowned for his charismatic stage presence and voice almost as much as for his trumpet-playing, Armstrong's influence extends well beyond jazz music, and by the end of his career in the 1960s, he was widely regarded as a profound influence on popular music in general. Armstrong was one of the first truly popular African-American entertainers to "cross over", whose skin color was secondary to his music in an America that was severely racially divided. He rarely publicly politicized his race, often to the dismay of fellow African-Americans, but took a well-publicized stand for desegregation during the Little Rock Crisis. His artistry and personality allowed him socially acceptable access to the upper echelons of American society that were highly restricted for a black man.





# TINA TURNER

Anna Mae Bullock (born November 26, 1939), known by her stage name Tina Turner, is a singer, dancer, actress, and author, whose career has spanned more than half a century, earning her widespread recognition and numerous awards. Born and raised in the American South, she is now a Swiss citizen.

One of the world's most popular entertainers, she is also called the Queen of Rock n Roll. Turner has been termed the most successful female rock artist, winning eight Grammys and selling more concert tickets than any other solo performer in history. Her combined album and single sales total approximately 100 million copies worldwide. She is noted for her energetic stage presence, powerful vocals, and career longevity. In 2008, Turner returned from semi-retirement to embark on her *Tina!: 50th Anniversary Tour*. Turner's tour became one of the highest selling ticketed shows of 2008–2009. *Rolling Stone* ranked her no. 63 on their 100 greatest artists of all time. In 1991, she was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



# JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE



**Justin Randall Timberlake** (born January 31, 1981) is an American singer-songwriter, actor, record producer, businessman, and philanthropist.. During the group's hiatus, Timberlake released his solo studio albums *Justified* (2002) and *Love Sounds* (2006); the former spawned hits "Cry Me a River" and "Rock Your Body", while the latter debuted atop the U.S. *Billboard* 200 and produced the *Billboard* Hot 100 number-one singles "My Love", and "What Goes Around... Comes Around". With each album exceeding sales of seven million copies worldwide, he was established as one of the most commercially successful singers. From 2007 through 2012, Timberlake focused on his acting career, effectively putting his music career on hiatus; he held starring roles in the films *The Social Network*, *In Time*, and *Friends with Benefits*. In 2013, Timberlake resumed his music career with his third and fourth albums *The 20/20 Experience* and *The 20/20 Experience – 2 of 2*. The former became one of the best-selling records of the year and spawned hits "Suit & Tie" and "Mirrors", while the latter is preceded by lead single "Take Back the Night". Timberlake's work has earned him nine Grammy Awards and four Emmy Awards.

# STING



**Gordon Matthew Thomas Sumner**, (born 2 October 1951), better known by the stage name **Sting** is an English musician, singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, activist, actor and philanthropist. He is best known as the principal songwriter, lead singer, and bassist for the pioneering new wave rock band The Police and for his influential subsequent solo career.

As a solo musician and member of the Police, Sting has received 16 Grammy Awards for his work, receiving his first Grammy for Best Rock Instrumental Performance in 1980, three Brit Awards – winning Best British Male in 1994, a Golden Globe, an Emmy Award, and several Oscar nominations for Best Original Song. He was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2002 and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2003. In 2000, he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for recording.

Including his years with The Police, Sting has sold over 100 million records worldwide. In the UK, he has been awarded seven Platinum album certifications, three Gold and a Silver, and in the US, nine Platinum and three Gold certifications.

# 30 SECONDS TO MARS

**Thirty Seconds to Mars** (commonly stylized as **30 Seconds to Mars**) is an American rock band from Los Angeles, California, formed in 1998. The band consists of Jared Leto (lead vocals, guitar, bass, keyboards), Shannon Leto (drums, percussion) and Tomo Miličević (lead guitar, bass, strings, keyboards, other instruments).

The band's debut album, *30 Seconds to Mars* (2002), was produced by Bob Ezrin and released to critical acclaim but only to limited commercial success. The band achieved worldwide fame with the release of their second album *A Beautiful Lie* (2005), which received multiple certifications all over the world, including platinum in the United States. Their next release, *This Is War* (2009), reached the top ten of several national album charts and earned numerous music awards. In 2013, Thirty Seconds to Mars moved to Universal Music and released the fourth album, *Love, Lust, Faith and Dreams* (2013), to critical and commercial success. As of May 2013, the band has sold over 10 million albums worldwide.



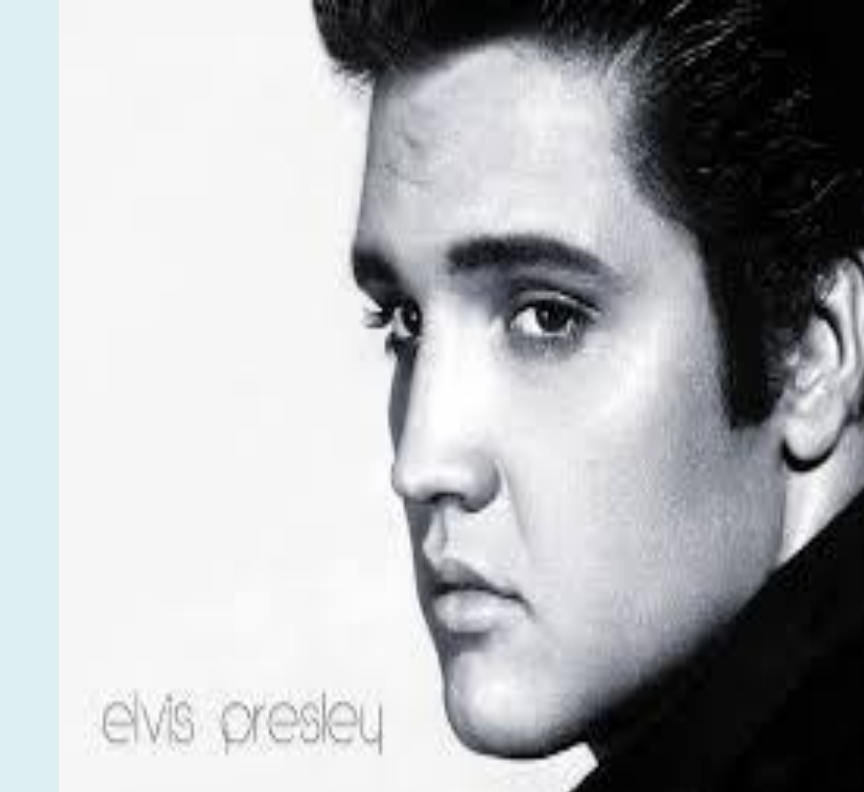
# EMINEM

**Marshall Bruce Mathers III** (born October 17, 1972), better known by his stage name **Eminem** and by his alter ego **Slim Shady**, is an American rapper, record producer, songwriter, and actor. Eminem is one of the world's best-selling music artists and is the best-selling artist of the 2000s. He has been listed and ranked as one of the greatest artists of all time by many magazines, including *Rolling Stone* magazine which ranked him 82nd on its list of The 100 Greatest Artists of All Time. Eminem has sold more than 80 million albums and over 120 million singles worldwide, making him one of the best-selling music artists of all time.

After releasing his independent debut album *Infinite* in August 1996, Eminem rose to mainstream popularity with the release of his February 1999 album *The Slim Shady LP*. The LP also earned Eminem his first Grammy Award for Best Rap Album. *The Slim Shady LP* was followed by *The Eminem Show* in late May 2002, which also won Best Rap Album Grammy Awards, making Eminem the first artist to win Best Rap Album for three consecutive LPs. This was followed by another studio release in November 2004 titled *Encore*. He released his sixth album *Relapse* in May 2009. In June 2010, Eminem released his seventh studio album *Recovery*. Eminem won Grammy Awards for both *Relapse* and *Recovery*, giving him a total of 13 Grammy Awards in his career.

In November 2002, Eminem starred in the hip hop drama film *8 Mile*. He won the Academy Award for Best Original Song, becoming the first rap artist ever to win the award. He has also made cameo appearances in *The Wash* (2001), *Funny People* (2009), and the television series *Entourage*.





**Elvis Aaron Presley**(January 8, 1935 – August 16, 1977) was an American singer, musician, and actor. One of the most significant cultural icons of the 20th century, he is often referred to as "the King of Rock and Roll", or simply, "the King". Presley's first RCA single, "Heartbreak Hotel", released in January 1956, was a number-one hit in the US. He became the leading figure of rock and roll after a series of network television appearances and chart-topping records. In November 1956, he made his film debut in *Love Me Tender*. He resumed his recording career two years later, producing some of his most commercially successful work before devoting much of the 1960s to making Hollywood movies and their accompanying soundtrack albums, most of which were critically derided.

Presley is one of the most celebrated musicians of the 20th century. He is the best-selling solo artist in the history of recorded music, with estimated album sales of around 600 million units worldwide. He was nominated for 14 Grammys and won three, receiving the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award at age 36, and has been inducted into multiple music Halls of fame.



# LADY GAGA



**Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta** ( born March 28, 1986), better known by her stage name **Lady Gaga**, is an American recording artist, activist, record producer, businesswoman, fashion designer, philanthropist, and actress.

Gaga rose to prominence with her August 2008 debut album, *The Fame*, which was a critical and commercial success. The record included the international number-one tracks "Just Dance" and "Poker Face". In November 2009, her extended play, *The Fame Monster*, was released to a similar reception, and produced the hit singles "Bad Romance", "Telephone", and "Alejandro". Its accompanying Monster Ball Tour became one of the highest-grossing concert tours of all time. Gaga's second album, *Born This Way*, was released in May 2011 and topped albums charts in most major markets. It generated chart-topping songs "Born This Way", "Judas", and "The Edge of Glory". After taking a sabbatical for a hip injury and the cancellation of the remaining dates of the Born This Way Ball Tour, Gaga's third album *Artpop* was released in November 2013 and became her second number one album in US. *Artpop* was preceded by singles "Applause" and "Do What U Want".

As of November 2013, she had sold an estimated 24 million albums and 125 million singles worldwide and her singles are some of the best-selling worldwide. Her achievements include five Grammy Awards and 13 MTV Video Music Awards.

# FALL OUT BOY



**Fall Out Boy** is an American rock band formed in Wilmette, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago in 2001. The band consists of vocalist/guitarist Patrick Stump, bassist Pete Wentz, guitarist Joe Trohman, and drummer Andy Hurley. The band originated from Chicago's hardcore punk scene. The group went through a succession of drummers before landing Hurley and recording their debut album, *Take This to Your Grave* (2003), which sold well for independent label Fueled by Ramen.

The band's 2005 major-label breakthrough, *From Under the Cork Tree*, produced two hit singles, "Sugar, We're Goin Down" and "Dance, Dance", and went double platinum, transforming the group into superstars and making Wentz a celebrity and tabloid fixture. Their 2007 follow-up, *Infinity on High*, landed at number one on the *Billboard* 200, and produced several hit singles, "This Ain't a Scene, It's an Arms Race" and "Thanks for the Memories". *Folie à Deux*, the band's fourth album, created a mixed response from fans and commercially undersold expectations.



# BEYONCÉ

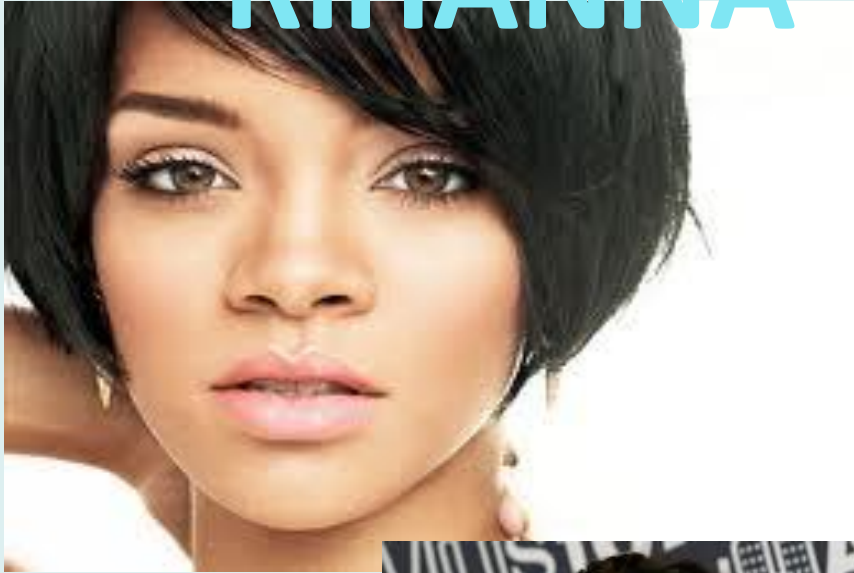


**Beyoncé Giselle Knowles-Carter**, simply known as **Beyoncé**, (born September 4, 1981) is an American recording artist and actress. Born and raised in Houston, Texas, she performed in various singing and dancing competitions as a child, and rose to fame in the late 1990s as lead singer of R&B girl-group Destiny's Child. Their hiatus saw the release of Beyoncé's debut album, *Dangerously in Love* (2003), which established her as a solo artist worldwide; it sold 11 million copies, earned five Grammy Awards and featured the *Billboard* number-one singles "Crazy in Love" and "Baby Boy".

She released her second solo album, *B'Day* (2006), which contained hits "Déjà Vu", "Irreplaceable" and "Beautiful Liar". Beyoncé also ventured into acting, with a Golden Globe-nominated performance in *Dreamgirls* (2006), and starring roles in *The Pink Panther* (2009). Throughout a career spanning 16 years, she has won 17 Grammy Awards and sold over 118 million records as a solo artist and 60 million with Destiny's Child, making her one of the best-selling music artists of all time.



# RIHANNA



**Robyn Rihanna Fenty** (born February 20, 1988), known by her stage name **Rihanna**, is a recording artist, actress, and fashion designer. Her debut album, *Music of the Sun* (2005) and its follow-up *A Girl Like Me* (2006) both peaked in the top ten on the *Billboard* 200 chart. The albums spawned the *Billboard* Hot 100 top two hit single «Pon de Replay» and her first Hot 100 number-one "SOS". Her third studio album, *Good Girl Gone Bad* (2007), and its chart-topping lead single "Umbrella" were major breakthroughs in her career that brought her to widespread prominence. The album and its *Reloaded* version (2008) produced the worldwide hit singles "Don't Stop the Music", "Take a Bow", and "Disturbia". The record was nominated for nine Grammy Awards, winning Best Rap/Sung Collaboration for "Umbrella". Many of her songs rank among the world's best-selling singles of all time, such as "Umbrella", "Take a Bow", "Disturbia", "Only Girl (In the World)", "S&M", "We Found Love", and "Diamonds". Her work has earned her numerous awards and accolades, including seven Grammy Awards, eight American Music Awards, 22 Billboard Music Awards, and two BRIT Awards. She has sold over 30 million albums and 120 million singles worldwide, which makes her one of the best-selling artists of all time. On November 24, 2013, Rihanna was presented with the first ever American Music "Icon" Award.