



STEVIE WONDER



Timeline

1950	1961	1963	1973	1980	1985	2009	2018
Stevland Morris was born in Detroit, USA	Writes his first song called 'Lonely Boy'	Becomes the youngest artist to get a no.1 hit in the US with 'Fingertips'	Spends four days in a coma after a near-fatal car crash	Releases 'Happy Birthday' in support of making Martin Luther King's birthday a U.S. national holiday	Accepts an award for 'I Just Called to Say I Love You' in the name of Nelson Mandela and gets banned from South African radio	Performs at Barak Obama's inaugural celebrations	Performed at Aretha Franklin's funeral

Key Songs

Fingertips	1963 – His first number 1 single at just the age of 13.
Uptight (Everything's Alright)	1966 – An early Motown classic by Wonder.
Signed, Sealed, Delivered, I'm Yours	1970 – Spend 6 weeks at number 1 and features a sitar at the start of the song.
Superstition	1972 – He enjoyed experimenting with synthesizers and this song became one of his most famous.
Higher Ground	1973 – Recorded just before his near-fatal car crash.
Isn't She Lovely	1976 – A song celebrating his daughter Aisha's birth. She now performs with her father as a backing singer.
Sir Duke	1976 – A tribute to jazz musician Duke Ellington.
Happy Birthday	1981 – A tribute to Martin Luther King.
Ebony and Ivory	1982 – Number 1 single about racial equality featuring Paul McCartney from The Beatles.
I Just Called to Say I Love You	1984 – Wonder's best-selling single, reaching number 1 in 19 countries around the world.

DID YOU KNOW?

For environmental and health reasons, Stevie Wonder became a vegan in 2016 and now travels with his very own chef!

The Importance of Stevie

Impact on Music and Culture

Stevie Wonder has been one of the most successful musicians of all time. He wrote, played and recorded most of the instruments on his songs himself. He has influenced other musicians in the fields of pop, rhythm and blues, soul, funk and rock, selling over 100 million records all over the world.

Social Justice

Wonder has been given a range of awards for both his music and for his civil rights work. Happy Birthday was a song he released to help the USA to recognise Martin Luther King's birthday as a national holiday. He also wrote Ebony and Ivory, a song about racial equality shortly afterwards. He was awarded by the UN for his stance against apartheid in South Africa and continues to support campaigns such as the Black Live Matter movement.

Disability

Stevie Wonder was born six weeks prematurely and suffered from blindness shortly after he was born. He taught himself to play the harmonica at just five years old and began to learn to play the drums aged eight after regularly listening to the radio. In 1975, he played a concert in Jamaica - a benefit for the Jamaican Institute of the Blind. He is also planning a new album called 'Through the Eyes of Wonder', an album about his blindness.

Other Facts

Little Stevie Wonder

When he signed with Motown Records, the record producer gave him the stage name 'Little Stevie Wonder' due to his young age and because of how talented he was. He later dropped the 'Little' and simply became known as Stevie Wonder.

Music Releases

He has released only one album of new music in this century, 2005's "A Time to Love," but he delivered 12 albums in the 1960s and 10 in the '70s. He released just four in the '80s and three in the '90s.

Twitter

He joined Twitter in 2018 and his first 'tweet' was on April 5th and mentioned Martin Luther King who was shot on April 4th, 1968. He produced a video of famous people saying about their hopes and dreams #DreamStillLives and has now been viewed 2.3 million times.

Funerals

He has performed at the funerals of many famous musicians such as Whitney Houston. Michael Jackson and Aretha Franklin.