



FREDDIE MERCURY



Timeline

1946	1953	1954	1964	1970	1975	1981	1991
Born in Zanzibar, Tanzania	Begins learning to play the piano	Starts school near Mumbai in India	Moves to Middlesex, England	Becomes the lead singer of a band called <i>Smile</i> and changes the band name to <i>Queen</i>	Bohemian Rhapsody is released	Queen release <i>Greatest Hits</i> which becomes best-selling record in U.K. history	Announces he has AIDS just before he dies

Key Songs

Father to Son	1974 - A rock ballad about the importance of fatherhood.
Bohemian Rhapsody	1975 - Operatic rock in three parts and a number 1 hit song
Somebody to Love	1976 - Mercury was influenced by Aretha Franklin on this song.
We Will Rock You	1977 - A huge stadium-filling rock anthem
We Are the Champions	1977 - Another huge stadium-filling rock anthem by Queen.
Don't Stop me Now	1979 - Recorded in France and all about confidence and joy.
Another One Bites the Dust	1980 - Written by bassist John Deacon and heavily influenced by the disco music around at the time.
Crazy Little Thing Called Love	1980 - A fun pop song all about love which Mercury wrote while having a bubble bath in a German hotel.
Under Pressure	1981 - Written and sung with David Bowie and a number 1 UK hit.
Radio Ga Ga	1984 - A song about how TV was starting to take over radio.
It's a Kind of Magic	1986 - A clever pop song used in the film <i>Highlander</i> .
One Vision	1986 - Influenced by the life and times of Martin Luther King Jr.
Barcelona	1988 - A song on his solo album used in the Olympic Games of 1992.
The Show Must Go On	1991 - Freddie Mercury's last song on Queen's last album. He was almost too sick to sing it. It was released 6 weeks before he died.



DID YOU KNOW?



Freddie Mercury's birth name was Farrokh Bulsara. He started going by the name Freddie when he was at St. Peter's, a boarding school for boys near Mumbai. He legally changed his name to Freddie Mercury around 1970, when Queen was formed.

Queen

Beginnings

Before forming *Queen*, Brian May and Roger Taylor had played together in the band *Smile*. Mercury was a fan of *Smile* and encouraged them to experiment with more elaborate stage and recording techniques. He joined in 1970 and suggested the name "*Queen*". John Deacon joined in February 1971.

Queen Members

Freddie Mercury (*lead vocals, piano*)

Brian May (*guitar, vocals*)

Roger Taylor (*drums, vocals*)

John Deacon (*bass*)

The Front Man

Freddie was born with hyperdontia causing him to have 4 incisor teeth. He once said it was this that gave him such a wide vocal range! He could sing with astonishing power and tempo. He was also noted for his live performances, which were often delivered to stadium audiences, displaying a highly theatrical and energetic style.

Queen's Legacy

'We Will Rock You' is now a successful musical show in London and around the world. It features actors, actresses, a comedy storyline and lots of Queen songs. There is also a film about Freddie's life which was released in 2018.

Key Events

Tanzania

Freddie Mercury was born in Zanzibar in Tanzania, a country in East Africa. His parents were Indian, and they moved to India so Freddie could go to school there. They eventually moved back to Zanzibar but due to a violent overthrowing of the government, they fled to England.

Live A.I.D.

In 1985, a show was put together of rock stars from around the world to help raise funds to support droughts in Africa. It was Queen's 17-minute long performance that stood out and from then on, they became arguably the biggest band of the 1980s.

A.I.D.S and His Death

Freddie announced he had a disease known as AIDS just a day before he died. The *Show Must Go On* became instantly more emotional and powerful knowing he was dying when he recorded it. He died in 1991 at the age of just 45.