

# Don McLean

**Don McLean** (born **Donald McLean III**, October 2, 1945) is an American singer-songwriter. He is best known for his 1971 song ''*American Pie*'.

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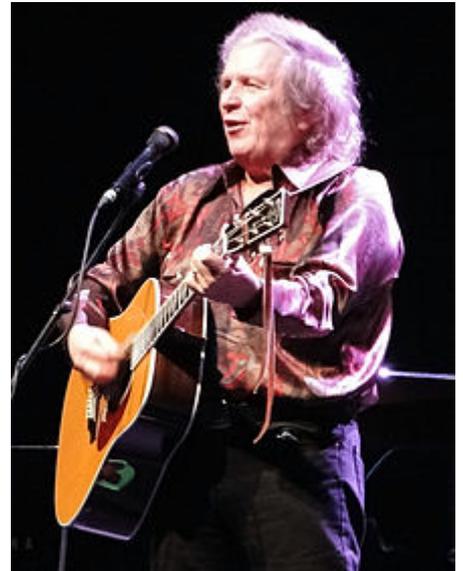
## Musical roots

McLean's grandfather and father were also named Donald McLean originating from   . The Buccis, the family of McLean's mother, Elizabeth, came from   in  . They left Italy and settled in  , , at the end of the 19th century. He has another extended family in  and .<sup>[1]</sup>

Though some of his early musical influences included  and  ,<sup>[2]</sup> as a teenager, McLean became interested in , particularly the 's 1955 recording *At Carnegie Hall*. Childhood  meant that McLean missed long periods of school, particularly music lessons, and although he slipped back in his studies, his love of music was allowed to flourish. By age 16 he had bought his first guitar and began making contacts in the music business, becoming friends with folk singers  and , both members of the . Hellerman said, "He called me one day and said, 'I'd like to come and visit you', and that's what he did! We became good friends - he has the most remarkable music memory of anyone I've ever known."<sup>[1]</sup>

When McLean was 15, his father died. Fulfilling his father's request, McLean graduated from  Preparatory School in 1963,<sup>[2]</sup> and briefly attended  University, dropping out after four months. After leaving Villanova, McLean became associated with famed  agent  for several months before teaming up with personal manager Herb Gart for 18 years. For the next six years he performed at venues and events including  and  in New York, the  Folk Festival, the  in , and the  in .<sup>[1]</sup> He attended  at  and received a 's degree in  in 1968.

**Don McLean**



Don McLean at the Royal Albert Hall in 2012

### Background information

<b>Birth name</b>	Donald McLean III
<b>Born</b>	October 2, 1945 <div>New Rochelle, New York, U.S.</div>
<b>Genres</b>	Folk <span> </span> · rock <span> </span> · folk rock
<b>Occupation(s)</b>	Singer-songwriter <span> </span> · musician
<b>Instruments</b>	Vocals <span> </span> · guitar <span> </span> · banjo <span> </span> · piano
<b>Years active</b>	1969–present
<b>Labels</b>	United Artists <span> </span> <div>EMI America</div>
<b>Website</b>	<span>www.don-mclean.com</span>

# Elton John

**Sir Elton Hercules John**, CBE (born **Reginald Kenneth Dwight**; 25 March 1947),<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> is an English singer, pianist, and composer. He has worked with lyricist Bernie Taupin as his songwriting partner since 1967; they have collaborated on more than 30 albums to date. In his five-decade career Elton John has sold more than 300 million records, making him one of the best-selling music artists in the world.<sup>[4][5]</sup> He has more than fifty Top 40 hits, including seven consecutive No. 1 US albums, 58 *Billboard* Top 40 singles, 27 Top 10, four No. 2 and nine No. 1. For 31 consecutive years (1970–2000) he had at least one song in the *Billboard* Hot 100. His tribute single, re-penned in dedication to the late Princess Diana, "Candle in the Wind 1997" sold over 33 million copies worldwide and is the best-selling single in the history of the UK and US singles charts.<sup>[6][7][8]</sup> He has also composed music, produced records, and has occasionally acted in films. John owned Watford Football Club from 1976 to 1987, and 1997 to 2002. He is an honorary Life President of the club, and in 2014 had a stand named after him at the club's home stadium.

Raised in the Pinner area of London, John learned to play piano at an early age, and by 1962 had formed Bluesology. John met his songwriting partner, Bernie Taupin, in 1967, after they had both answered an advert for songwriters. For two years they wrote songs for other artists, including Lulu, and John also worked as a session musician for artists such as the Hollies and the Scaffold. In 1969 his debut album, *Empty Sky*, was released. In 1970 a single, "Your Song", from his second album, *Elton John*, reached the top ten in the UK and the US, his first hit single. After decades of commercial chart success, John has also achieved success in musical theatre, both in the West End and on Broadway, composing the music for *The Lion King* (film and musical), *Aida* and *Billy Elliot the Musical*

He has received five Grammy Awards, five Brit Awards – winning two awards for Outstanding Contribution to Music and the first Brits Icon in 2013 for his "lasting impact on British culture", an Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award, a Tony Award, a Disney Legends award, and the Kennedy Center Honors in 2004. In 2004, *Rolling Stone* ranked him Number 49 on its list of 100 influential musicians of the rock and roll era.<sup>[9]</sup> In 2013, *Billboard* ranked him the most successful male solo artist on the *Billboard* Hot 100 Top All-Time Artists (third overall behind the Beatles and Madonna).<sup>[10]</sup> He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1994, is an inductee into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and is a fellow of the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors. Having been named a Order of the British Empire in 1996, John was made a Knight Bachelor by Elizabeth II for "services to music and charitable services" in 1998.<sup>[11]</sup> John has performed at a number of royal events, such as the funeral of Princess Diana at Westminster Abbey in 1997, the Party at the Palace in 2002 and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Concert outside Buckingham Palace in 2012.

He has been heavily involved in the fight against AIDS since the late 1980s.<sup>[12]</sup> In 1992, he established the Elton John AIDS Foundation and a year later began hosting the annual Academy Award Party, which has since become one of the highest-profile Oscar parties in the Hollywood film industry. Since its inception, the foundation has

<div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span>Sir</span></div></div> <div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span><b>Elton John</b></span></div></div> <div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span>CBE</span></div></div>		
<span></span> <div>John at the 2011 Tribeca Film Festival</div>		
Born	<div>Reginald Kenneth Dwight</div> 25 March 1947 <div>Pinner, Middlesex, England, UK</div> <span></span>	
Other names	Elton Hercules John	
Occupation	Musician <span> </span> <b><span>·</span></b> <span> </span> singer-songwriter <span> </span> <b><span>·</span></b> <span> </span> composer	
Years active	1963–present	
Spouse(s)	<div><span>Renate Blauel</span> (m.<span> </span>1984; div.<span> </span>1988)</div> <div><span>David Furnish</span> (m.<span> </span>2014)</div>	
Children	2	
<b>Musical career</b>		
Genres	Rock <span> </span> <b><span>·</span></b> <span> </span> pop rock <span> </span> <b><span>·</span></b> <span> </span> glam rock <span> </span> <b><span>·</span></b> <span> </span> soft rock <span> </span> <b><span>·</span></b> <span> </span> rhythm and blues	
Instruments	Vocals <span> </span> <b><span>·</span></b> <span> </span> piano	

# Eurythmics

**Eurythmics** were a British music duo consisting of members Annie Lennox and David A. Stewart. Stewart and Lennox were both previously in the band The Tourists (originally known as The Catch), who split up in 1980; Eurythmics were formed that year in London. The duo released their first album, *In the Garden*, in 1981 to little fanfare, but went on to achieve global success with their second album *Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)*, released in 1983. The title track was a worldwide hit, topping the charts in various countries including the US. The duo went on to release a string of hit singles and albums before they split up in 1990. By this time Stewart was a sought-after record producer, while Lennox began a solo recording career in 1992 with her debut album *Diva*. After almost a decade apart, Eurythmics reunited to record their ninth album, *Peace*, released in late 1999. They reunited again in 2005 to release the single "I've Got a Life", as part of a new Eurythmics compilation album, *Ultimate Collection*

The duo have won an MTV Video Music Award for Best New Artist in 1984, the Grammy Award for Best Rock Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal in 1987, the Brit Award for Outstanding Contribution to Music in 1999, and in 2005 were inducted into the UK Music Hall of Fame. Eurythmics have sold an estimated 75 million records worldwide.<sup>[2]</sup> In 2017, the group was nominated for induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame<sup>[3]</sup>

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  - 1990–98: Hiatus and solo careers
  - 1999–2005: *Peace* and *Ultimate Collection*
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### Eurythmics



Eurythmics at Rock am Ring in Nürburgring, Nürburg, Germany, 1987

#### Background information

Origin	London, England, United Kingdom <sup>[1]</sup>
Genres	Synthpop <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> new wave <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> dance rock
Years active	1980–1990 <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> 1999–2005 <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> (one-off reunion: 2014)
Labels	Arista <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> RCA <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> Sony BMG
Associated acts	The Catch <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> The Tourists
Website	<span>eurythmics.com</span>
Past members	Annie Lennox <p>David A. Stewart</p>

# Fleetwood Mac

**Fleetwood Mac** are a British-American rock band, formed in London in 1967. The band have sold more than 100 million records worldwide, making them one of the world's best-selling bands. In 1998, selected members of Fleetwood Mac were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and received the Brit Award for Outstanding Contribution to Music.<sup>[5]</sup>

Fleetwood Mac were founded by guitarist Peter Green, drummer Mick Fleetwood and guitarist Jeremy Spencer. They lacked a permanent bass guitarist for the first few months before Green convinced John McVie to join, establishing the first stable line-up in time to record their first album. Danny Kirwan joined as a third guitarist in 1969, and keyboardist Christine Perfect, who was used as a session musician starting with the second album, later married John McVie and joined the band in 1970. During this time period, the band was primarily a British blues outfit, scoring a UK number one with "Albatross";<sup>[6]</sup> and had lesser hits with the singles "Oh Well" and "Black Magic Woman". Personal problems led to original guitarists Green and Spencer leaving in short order, replaced by Bob Welch and Bob Weston.

In late 1974, while the band was scouting studios in Los Angeles, they were introduced to folk-rock duo Lindsey Buckingham and Stevie Nicks. The band sought to add Buckingham as their new lead guitarist, who agreed under the condition that Nicks, his singing partner and girlfriend at the time, also would join the band. The addition of Buckingham and Nicks caused the band to take on a more pop rock sound, with their 1975 album *Fleetwood Mac* becoming their best selling record to date, reaching No. 1 in the US. *Rumours* (1977), Fleetwood Mac's second album after the incorporation of Buckingham and Nicks, produced four US Top 10 singles and remained at No. 1 on the American albums chart for 31 weeks, as well as reaching the top spot in various countries around the world. The album has sold over 40 million copies worldwide, making it the eighth-highest-selling album to date. During the recording of *Rumours*, the band went through personal turmoil, as both of the romantic partnerships in the band (John & Christine McVie and Buckingham & Nicks) separated, though the band kept making music together

The lineup remained stable through three more studio albums, but by the late 1980s the band began to disintegrate. First to leave was Buckingham, followed by Nicks in 1991, to be replaced by a series of short-term guitarists and vocalists. In 1993, a one-off performance for the Presidential Inauguration of Bill Clinton featured the five key members back together for the first time in six years, and by 1997, a full reunion occurred. In 1998, Christine McVie retired from touring, and the band stayed together as a four-piece with John McVie, Mick Fleetwood, Lindsey Buckingham, and Stevie Nicks. In 2014, Christine McVie rejoined again full time. The latest studio album by the band was 2003's *Say You Will*, though a side project known as *Lindsey Buckingham/Christine McVie* was released in 2017 containing contributions from the other band members.

## Fleetwood Mac



Fleetwood Mac photographed for the release of their 1977 album *Rumours*. (Left to right: Mick Fleetwood, Christine McVie, John McVie, Stevie Nicks, Lindsey Buckingham)

### Background information

<b>Origin</b>	London, England
<b>Genres</b>	Pop rock <sup>[1]</sup> · soft rock <sup>[2]</sup> · blues rock <sup>[3]</sup> · art pop <sup>[4]</sup> · British blues <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Years active</b>	1967–1995 · 1997–present
<b>Labels</b>	Blue Horizon · Reprise · Warner Bros. · LMJS Productions
<b>Associated acts</b>	John Mayall's Bluesbreakers · Savoy Brown · Chicken Shack · Buckingham Nicks · Lindsey Buckingham/Christine McVie · Bekka & Billy · Tramp · Eddie Boyd · Duster Bennett
<b>Website</b>	fleetwoodmac.com
<b>Members</b>	Mick Fleetwood John McVie Christine McVie

# Grateful Dead

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Grateful Dead** was an American rock band formed in 1965 in Palo Alto, California.<sup>[1][2]</sup> Ranging from quintet to septet, the band is known for its unique and eclectic style, which fused elements of rock, psychedelia, experimental music, modal jazz, country, folk, bluegrass, blues, reggae, and space rock,<sup>[3][4]</sup> for live performances of lengthy instrumental jams,<sup>[5][6]</sup> and for their devoted fan base, known as "Deadheads". "Their music," writes Lenny Kaye, "touches on ground that most other groups don't even know exists."<sup>[7]</sup> These various influences were distilled into a diverse and psychedelic whole that made the Grateful Dead "the pioneering Godfathers of the jam band world".<sup>[8]</sup> The band was ranked 57th by *Rolling Stone* magazine in its The Greatest Artists of All Time issue.<sup>[9]</sup> The band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1994<sup>[10]</sup> and a recording of their May 8, 1977 performance at Cornell University's Barton Hall was added to the National Recording Registry of the Library of Congress in 2012.<sup>[11]</sup> The Grateful Dead have sold more than 35 million albums worldwide.

The Grateful Dead was founded in the San Francisco Bay Area amid the rise of the counterculture of the 1960s.<sup>[12][13][14]</sup> The founding members were Jerry Garcia (lead guitar, vocals), Bob Weir (rhythm guitar, vocals), Ron "Pigpen" McKernan (keyboards, harmonica, vocals), Phil Lesh (bass, vocals), and Bill Kreutzmann (drums).<sup>[15]</sup> Members of the Grateful Dead had played together in various San Francisco bands, including Mother McCree's Uptown Jug Champions and the Warlocks. Lesh was the last member to join the Warlocks before they became the Grateful Dead; he replaced Dana Morgan Jr., who had played bass for a few gigs. Drummer Mickey Hart and nonperforming lyricist Robert Hunter joined in 1967. With the exception of McKernan, who died in 1973, and Hart, who took time off from 1971 to 1974, the core of the band stayed together for its entire 30-year history.<sup>[16]</sup> The other official members of the band are Tom Constanten (keyboards; 1968–1970), John Perry Barlow (nonperforming lyricist; 1971–1995)<sup>[17]</sup>, Keith Godchaux (keyboards; 1971–1979), Donna Godchaux (vocals; 1972–1979), Brent Mydland (keyboards, vocals; 1979–1990), and Vince Welnick (keyboards, vocals; 1990–1995).<sup>[18]</sup> Pianist Bruce Hornsby was a touring member from 1990 to 1992, as well as a guest with the band on occasion before and after the tours.

After the death of Garcia in 1995, former members of the band, along with other musicians, toured as the Other Ones in 1998, 2000, and 2002, and the Dead in 2003, 2004, and 2009. In 2015, the four surviving core members marked the band's 50th anniversary in a series of concerts that were billed as their last performances together.<sup>[19]</sup> There have also been several spin-offs featuring one or more core members, such as Dead & Company, Furthur, the Rhythm Devils, Phil Lesh & Friends, RatDog, and Billy & the Kids.

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## Grateful Dead



The Grateful Dead in 1970, from a promotional photo shoot. Left to right: Bill Kreutzmann, Ron "Pigpen" McKernan, Jerry Garcia, Bob Weir, Mickey Hart, Phil Lesh.

### Background information

Origin	Palo Alto, California, United States
Genres	Rock
Years active	1965–1995
Labels	Warner Bros. · Grateful Dead · Arista · Rhino · Sunflower · UA
Associated acts	The Other Ones · The Dead · Furthur · Dead & Company · New Riders of the Purple Sage · The Tubes · Ned Lagin · Kingfish · Old and in the Way · Legion of Mary · Jerry Garcia Band · Reconstruction · Bobby and the Midnites · Heart of Gold Band · Go Ahead · Jerry Garcia Acoustic Band · RatDog · Missing Man Formation · Phil Lesh and Friends · Rhythm Devils · Donna Jean Godchaux Band · BK3 · 7 Walkers · Billy & the Kids · Bob Dylan · Bruce Hornsby
Website	dead.net

Past members	Jerry Garcia
	Bob Weir
	Phil Lesh
	Bill Kreutzmann
	Mickey Hart
	Ron "Pigpen" McKernan
	Robert Hunter
	John Perry Barlow
	Tom Constanten
	Keith Godchaux
	Donna Jean Godchaux
	Brent Mydland
	Vince Welnick