

# Harry Nilsson

**Harry Edward Nilsson III** (June 15, 1941 – January 15, 1994<sup>[2]</sup>), usually credited as **Nilsson**, was an American singer-songwriter who achieved the peak of his commercial success in the early 1970s. His work is characterized by pioneering overdub experiments, returns to the Great American Songbook, and fusions of Caribbean sounds A tenor with a three-and-a-half octave range, Nilsson was one of the few major pop-rock recording artists of his era to achieve significant commercial success without ever performing major public concerts or undertaking regular tours.<sup>[3]</sup>

Born in Brooklyn, Nilsson fled to Los Angeles as a teenager and landed a job as a computer programmer at a bank. It was there that he cultivated an interest in musical composition and close-harmony singing, and was successful in having some of his songs recorded by various artists such as the Monkees, and later, Three Dog Night, who had a No. 5 hit with his song "One". In 1967, he debuted on RCA Victor with the LP *Pandemonium Shadow Show* followed with a variety of releases that include a collaboration with Randy Newman (*Nilsson Sings Newman*, 1970) and the original children's story *The Point!* (1971). After a brief period of widely publicized, alcohol-fueled antics with John Lennon—the two collaborating in 1974 for the album *Pussy Cats*—Nilsson left RCA, and his record output subsequently diminished. In response to Lennon's 1980 death by shooting, he took a hiatus from the music industry to campaign for gun control. For the rest of his life, he recorded only on sporadic occasions. In 1994, Nilsson died of a heart attack while in the midst of recording new material for a since-unreleased comeback album.

In 2015, Nilsson was voted No. 62 in *Rolling Stone's* list of the 100 Greatest Songwriters of All Time, where he was described as "a pioneer of the Los Angeles studio sound, a crucial bridge between the baroque psychedelic pop of the late Sixties and the more personal singer-songwriter era of the Seventies".<sup>[4]</sup> The RIAA have certified Nilsson's albums *Nilsson Schmilsson* (1971) and *Son of Schmilsson* (1972) as gold records, indicating over 500,000 units sold each. His singles to reach the US top 10 were "Everybody's Talkin'" (1969), "Without You" (1971), and "Coconut" (1972).<sup>[3]</sup> Nilsson's honors include Grammy Awards for two of his recordings; Best Contemporary Vocal Performance, Male in 1970 for "Everybody's Talkin'", a prominent song in the 1969 film *Midnight Cowboy*, and Best Pop Vocal Performance, Male in 1973 for "Without You".

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**Harry Nilsson**

Nilsson in 1976

### Background information

<b>Birth name</b>	Harry Edward Nilsson III
<b>Also known as</b>	Nilsson
<b>Born</b>	June 15, 1941 <div>Brooklyn, New York, U.S.</div>
<b>Origin</b>	Los Angeles, California, U.S.
<b>Died</b>	January 15, 1994 (aged 52) <div>Agoura Hills, California, U.S.</div>
<b>Genres</b>	Rock, pop <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Occupation(s)</b>	Singer-songwriter
<b>Instruments</b>	Piano · vocals · keyboards · guitar · harmonica
<b>Years active</b>	1958–1994
<b>Labels</b>	Tower · Musicor · RCA · Mercury
<b>Associated acts</b>	Perry Botkin, Jr. · John Lennon · The Monkees · Van Dyke Parks ·

# James Taylor

**James Vernon Taylor** (born March 12, 1948) is an American singer-songwriter and guitarist. A five-time Grammy Award winner, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2000.<sup>[2]</sup> He is one of the best-selling music artists of all time, having sold more than 100 million records worldwide.<sup>[3]</sup>

Taylor achieved his breakthrough in 1970 with the No. 3 single "Fire and Rain" and had his first No. 1 hit the following year with "You've Got a Friend", a recording of Carole King's classic song. His 1976 *Greatest Hits* album was certified Diamond and has sold 12 million US copies. Following his 1977 album, *JT*, he has retained a large audience over the decades. Every album that he released from 1977 to 2007 sold over 1 million copies. He enjoyed a resurgence in chart performance during the late 1990s and 2000s, when he recorded some of his most-awarded work (including *Hourglass*, *October Road*, and *Covers*). He achieved his first number-one album in the US in 2015 with his recording *Before This World*.<sup>[4]</sup>

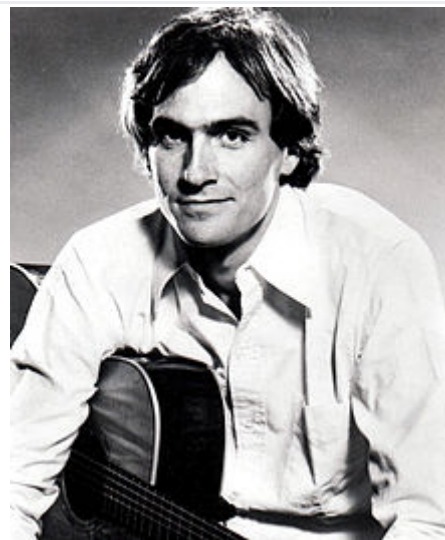
He is notable for his popular covers of other people's songs, such as "How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved by You)" and the aforementioned "You've Got A Friend", as well as originals such as "Fire and Rain".

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## Early years

**James Taylor**



Taylor in the mid-1970s

<b>Born</b>	<div>James Vernon Taylor</div> March 12, 1948 <div>Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.</div>
<b>Nationality</b>	American
<b>Other names</b>	James V. Taylor "Stringbean" "JT"
<b>Alma<span> </span>mater</b>	Milton Academy
<b>Occupation</b>	Singer-songwriter · musician · actor
<b>Years<span> </span>active</b>	1966–present
<b>Home<span> </span>town</b>	Chapel Hill, North Carolina
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	<div>Carly Simon</div> <div>(m.<span> </span>1972; div.<span> </span>1983)</div> <div>Kathryn Walker</div> <div>(m.<span> </span>1985; div.<span> </span>1995)</div> <div>Caroline "Kim" Smedvig</div> <div>(m.<span> </span>2001)</div>
<b>Children</b>	4; including Sally and Ben Taylor

# Janis Joplin

**Janis Lyn Joplin** (/ˈdʒɒplɪn/; January 19, 1943 – October 4, 1970) was an American rock singer and songwriter. She was one of the biggest female rock stars of her era.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> After releasing three albums, she died of a heroin overdose at the age of 27. A fourth album, *Pearl*, was released in January 1971, just over three months after her death. It reached number one on the *Billboard* charts.

In 1967, Joplin rose to fame during an appearance at *Monterey Pop Festival*, where she was the lead singer of the then little-known San Francisco *psychedelic rock* band *Big Brother and the Holding Company*.<sup>[4][5][6]</sup> After releasing two albums with the band, she left *Big Brother* to continue as a solo artist with her own backing groups, first the *Kozmic Blues Band* and then the *Full Tilt Boogie Band*. She appeared at the *Woodstock* festival and the *Festival Express* train tour. Five singles by Joplin went into the *Billboard* Hot 100, including a cover of the song "Me and Bobby McGee", which reached number 1 in March 1971.<sup>[7]</sup> Her most popular songs include her cover versions of "Piece of My Heart", "Cry Baby", "Down on Me", "Ball 'n' Chain", and "Summertime"; and her original song "Mercedes Benz", her final recording.<sup>[8][9]</sup>

Joplin, highly respected for her charismatic performing ability, was posthumously inducted into the *Rock and Roll Hall of Fame* in 1995. Audiences and critics alike referred to her stage presence as "electric". *Rolling Stone* ranked Joplin number 46 on its 2004 list of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time<sup>[10]</sup> and number 28 on its 2008 list of 100 Greatest Singers of All Time. She remains one of the top-selling musicians in the United States, with *Recording Industry Association of America* certifications of 15.5 million albums sold in the USA.<sup>[11]</sup>

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### Janis Joplin



Joplin in 1969

### Background information

Birth name	Janis Lyn Joplin
Also known as	Pearl
Born	January 19, 1943 <div>Port Arthur, Texas, U.S.</div>
Died	October 4, 1970 (aged 27) <div>Los Angeles, California, U.S.</div>
Genres	Psychedelic rock · soul · blues
Occupation(s)	Singer-songwriter
Instruments	Vocals
Years active	1962–1970
Labels	Columbia
Associated acts	Big Brother and the Holding Company · Kozmic Blues Band · Full Tilt Boogie Band · Grateful Dead · Kris Kristofferson
Website	janisjoplin.com