

Jefferson Airplane

Jefferson Airplane a rock band based in San Francisco, California, was one of the pioneering bands of psychedelic rock. Formed in 1965, the group defined the San Francisco Sound and was the first from the Bay Area to achieve international commercial success. They were headliners at the three most famous American rock festivals of the 1960s—Monterey (1967), Woodstock (1969) and Altamont (1969)—and the first Isle of Wight Festival (1968) ^[1] in England. Their 1967 break-out album *Surrealistic Pillow* ranks on the short list of the most significant recordings of the "Summer of Love". Two songs from that album, "Somebody to Love"^[2] and "White Rabbit", are among *Rolling Stone's* "500 Greatest Songs of All Time."

The "classic" lineup of Jefferson Airplane, from October 1966 to February 1970, was Marty Balin (vocals), Paul Kantner (guitar, vocals), Grace Slick (vocals), Jorma Kaukonen (lead guitar, vocals), Jack Casady (bass), and Spencer Dryden (drums). Marty Balin left the band in 1971. After 1972, Jefferson Airplane effectively split into two groups. Kaukonen and Casady moved on full-time to their own band, Hot Tuna. Slick, Kantner, and the remaining members of Jefferson Airplane recruited new members and regrouped as Jefferson Starship in 1974, with Marty Balin eventually joining them. Jefferson Airplane was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996 and was presented with the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016.

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1965–1966: Formation

In 1962, 20-year-old Marty Balin recorded two singles for Challenge Records, neither of which were successful. Balin then joined a folk group called the Town Criers from 1963 to 1964. After the Beatles-led British invasion of 1964, Balin was inspired by the success of the Byrds and Simon & Garfunkel in merging folk with

Jefferson Airplane



Jefferson Airplane photographed by Herb Greene at The Matrix club, San Francisco, in 1966. Top row from left: Jack Casady, Grace Slick, Marty Balin; bottom row from left: Jorma Kaukonen, Paul Kantner, Spencer Dryden. A cropped version was used for the front cover of *Surrealistic Pillow*.

Background information

Origin	San Francisco, California, U.S.
Genres	Psychedelic rock <ul style="list-style-type: none">acid rock folk rock garage rock
Years active	1965–1972; 1989; 1996
Labels	Grunt/RCA Records <ul style="list-style-type: none">Epic/Sony Music Entertainment
Associated acts	The Great Society <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hot Tuna Jefferson Starship Starship KBC Band New Riders of the Purple Sage
Website	www

Joe Cocker

John Robert "Joe" Cocker, OBE (20 May 1944 – 22 December 2014) was an English singer and musician. He was known for his gritty voice, spasmodic body movement in performance and definitive versions of popular songs of varying genre.

Cocker's cover of the Beatles' "With a Little Help from My Friends" reached number one in the UK in 1968. He performed the song live at Woodstock in 1969 and performed the same year at the Isle of Wight Festival, and at the Party at the Palace concert in 2002 for the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. His version also became the theme song for the TV series *The Wonder Years*. His 1974 cover of "You Are So Beautiful" reached number five in the US. Cocker was the recipient of several awards, including a 1983 Grammy Award for his US number one "Up Where We Belong", a duet with Jennifer Warnes.

In 1993, Cocker was nominated for the Brit Award for Best British Male, in 2007 was awarded a bronze Sheffield Legends plaque in his hometown and in 2008 he received an OBE at Buckingham Palace for services to music.^{[1][2]} Cocker was ranked number 97 on *Rolling Stone's* 100 greatest singers list.^[3]

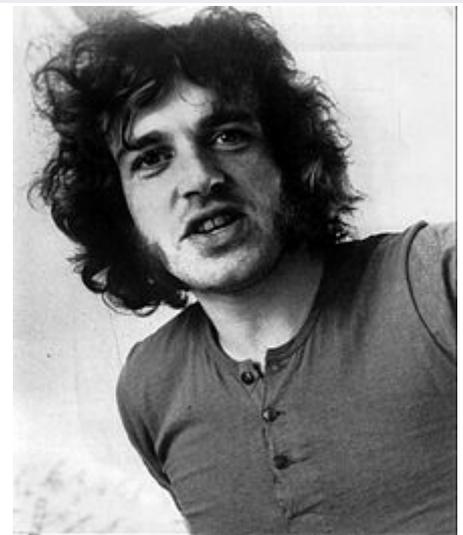
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Life and career

Early life (1944–1960)

Joe Cocker OBE



Cocker in 1969

Background information

Birth name	John Robert Cocker
Also known as	Vance Arnold <div> <div><div>The Sheffield Soul Shouter</div></div> </div>
Born	20 May 1944 <div> <div><div>Sheffield, West Riding of Yorkshire, England</div></div> </div>
Died	22 December 2014 (aged 70) <div> <div><div>Crawford, Colorado, United States</div></div> </div>
Genres	Rock, blues, soul, pop
Occupation(s)	Singer, musician
Instruments	Vocals · harmonica · piano
Years active	1961–2013
Labels	Regal <div> <div><div>Zonophone, A&M, Capitol, EMI, Decca</div></div> </div>

Joni Mitchell

Roberta Joan "Joni" Mitchell (née **Anderson**; born November 7, 1943) is a Canadian singer-songwriter and painter^[1] *Rolling Stone* called her "one of the greatest songwriters ever",^[2] and *AllMusic* has stated, "When the dust settles, Joni Mitchell may stand as the most important and influential female recording artist of the late 20th century".^[3] Drawing from folk, pop, rock, and jazz, Mitchell's songs often reflect social and environmental ideals as well as her feelings about romance, confusion, disillusionment, and joy. Throughout her career, she has won various accolades, including 9*Grammy Awards*.

Mitchell began singing in small *nightclubs* in her hometown of *Saskatoon*, *Saskatchewan*, and throughout western Canada, before *busking* in the streets and nightclubs of *Toronto*. In 1965, she moved to the United States and began touring. Some of her original songs ("Urge for Going", "Chelsea Morning", "Both Sides, Now", "The Circle Game") were covered by other folk singers, allowing her to sign with *Reprise Records* and record her debut album in 1968.^[4] Settling in *Southern California*, Mitchell, with popular songs like *Big Yellow Taxi*" and "Woodstock", helped define an era and a generation. Her 1971 album *Blue* is often cited as one of the best albums of all time; it was rated the 30th best album ever made in*Rolling Stone's* list of the "500 Greatest Albums of All Time", the highest entry by a female artist.^[5] In 2000, the *New York Times* chose *Blue* as one of the 25 albums that represented "turning points and pinnacles in 20th-century popular music".^[6] In 2017, *NPR* ranked *Blue* Number 1 on a list of Greatest Albums Made By Women.^[7]

Following the release of her fifth album, *For the Roses*, in 1972, Mitchell switched labels and began moving toward jazz rhythms by way of lush pop textures on 1974's *Court and Spark*, her best-selling LP, featuring the radio hits "Help Me" and "Free Man in Paris".^[8] Around 1975 her vocal range began to shift from *mezzo-soprano* to more of a wide-ranging *contralto*.^{[9][10][11]} Her distinctive piano and *open-tuned* guitar compositions also grew more harmonically and rhythmically complex as she explored jazz, melding it with influences of *rock and roll*, *R&B*, classical music, and *non-western beats*. In the late 1970s, she began working closely with noted jazz musicians, among them *Jaco Pastorius*, *Wayne Shorter*, *Herbie Hancock*, *Pat Metheny*, and *Charles Mingus*, who asked her to collaborate on his final recordings.^[12] She later turned again toward pop, embraced *electronic music*, and engaged in *political protest*. In 2002, she was awarded a *Lifetime Achievement Award* at the *54th annual Grammy Awards*.^[13]

She is the sole producer credited on most of her albums, including all her work in the 1970s. A blunt critic of the *music industry*, she quit touring and released her 17th, and reportedly last, album of original songs in 2007. With roots in visual art, Mitchell designed her own album covers. She describes herself as a "painter derailed by circumstance"^[14]

Joni Mitchell CC



Mitchell performing in 1974

Background information

Birth name	Roberta Joan Anderson
Also known as	Roberta Joan Mitchell Joni Anderson
Born	November 7, 1943 <div>Fort Macleod, Alberta, Canada</div>
Genres	Folk · rock · jazz · pop
Occupation(s)	Singer-songwriter · painter
Instruments	Vocals · guitar · piano · dulcimer
Years active	1964–2007
Labels	Reprise (1968–1972, 1994–2001) <div>Asylum (1972–1981)</div> Geffen (1982–1993) <div>Nonesuch (2002)</div> Hear Music (2007)
Associated acts	Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young · James Taylor · L.A. Express · Jaco Pastorius · Wayne Shorter · Herbie Hancock · Charles Mingus · Larry Klein ·

Led Zeppelin

Led Zeppelin were an English rock band formed in London in 1968. The group consisted of guitarist Jimmy Page, singer Robert Plant, bassist and keyboardist John Paul Jones, and drummer John Bonham. The band's heavy, guitar-driven sound has led them to be cited as one of the progenitors of heavy metal, though their unique style drew from a wide variety of influences, including blues, psychedelia, and folk music.

After changing their name from the New Yardbirds, Led Zeppelin signed a deal with Atlantic Records that afforded them considerable artistic freedom. Although the group was initially unpopular with critics, they achieved significant commercial success with albums such as *Led Zeppelin* (1969), *Led Zeppelin II* (1969), *Led Zeppelin III* (1970), *Led Zeppelin IV* (1971), *Houses of the Holy* (1973), and *Physical Graffiti* (1975). Their fourth album, which features the song "Stairway to Heaven", is among the most popular and influential works in rock music, and it helped to secure the group's popularity

Page wrote most of Led Zeppelin's music, particularly early in their career, while Plant generally supplied the lyrics. Jones' keyboard-based compositions later became central to the group's catalogue, which featured increasing experimentation. The latter half of their career saw a series of record-breaking tours that earned the group a reputation for excess and debauchery. Although they remained commercially and critically successful, their output and touring schedule were limited during the late 1970s, and the group disbanded following Bonham's death from alcohol-related asphyxia in 1980. In the decades that followed, the surviving members sporadically collaborated and participated in one-off Led Zeppelin reunions. The most successful of these was the 2007 Ahmet Ertegun Tribute Concert in London, with Jason Bonham taking his late father's place behind the drums.

Led Zeppelin are widely considered one of the most successful, innovative, and influential rock groups in history. They are one of the best-selling music artists in the history of audio recording; various sources estimate the group's record sales at 200 to 300 million units worldwide. With RIAA-certified sales of 111.5 million units, they are the second-best-selling band in the US. Each of their nine studio albums placed in the top 10 of the *Billboard* album chart and six reached the number-one spot. They achieved eight consecutive UK number-one albums. *Rolling Stone* magazine described them as "the heaviest band of all time", "the biggest band of the Seventies", and "unquestionably one of the most enduring bands in rock history". They were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1995; the museum's biography of the band states that they were "as influential" during the 1970s as the Beatles were during the 1960s.

Led Zeppelin



Clockwise, from top left: Jimmy Page, John Bonham, Robert Plant, John Paul Jones

Background information

Origin	London, England
Genres	Hard rock · blues rock · folk rock · heavy metal
Years active	1968–1980 (reunions: 1985, 1988, 1995, 2007)
Labels	Atlantic · Swan Song
Associated acts	The Yardbirds · The Honeydrippers · Page and Plant
Website	ledzeppelin.com
Past members	Jimmy Page Robert Plant John Paul Jones John Bonham

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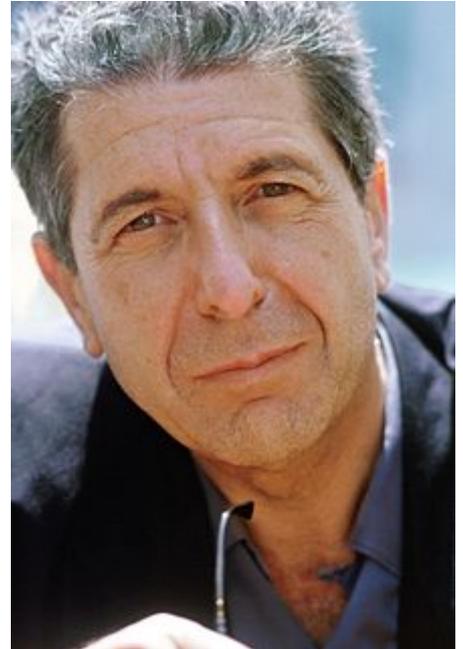
Leonard Cohen

Leonard Norman CohenCC GOQ (September 21, 1934 – November 7, 2016) was a Canadian singer, songwriter, musician, poet, novelist, and painterHis work explored religion, politics, isolation, sexuality, and personal relationships.^[2] Cohen was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame, the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He was a Companion of the Order of Canada, the nation's highest civilian honour. In 2011, Cohen received one of the Prince of Asturias Awards for literature and the ninthGlenn Gould Prize

Cohen pursued a career as a poet and novelist during the 1950s and early 1960s; he did not launch a music career until 1967, at the age of 33. His first album, *Songs of Leonard Cohen* (1967), was followed by three more albums of folk music: *Songs from a Room* (1969), *Songs of Love and Hate* (1971) and *New Skin for the Old Ceremony* (1974). His 1977 record *Death of a Ladies' Man* was co-written and produced by Phil Spector, which was a move away from Cohen's previous minimalist sound. In 1979, Cohen returned with the more traditional *Recent Songs*, which blended his acoustic style with jazz and Oriental and Mediterranean influences. Perhaps Cohen's most famous song, "Hallelujah" was first released on his studio album *Various Positions* in 1984. *I'm Your Man* in 1988 marked Cohen's turn to synthesized productions and remains his most popular album. In 1992, Cohen released its follow-up, *The Future*, which had dark lyrics and references to political and social unrest.

Cohen returned to music in 2001 with the release of *Ten New Songs*, which was a major hit in Canada and Europe. His eleventh album, *Dear Heather*, followed in 2004. After a successful string of tours between 2008 and 2010, Cohen released three albums in the final four years of his life: *Old Ideas* (2012), *Popular Problems* (2014) and *You Want It Darker* (2016), the last of which was released three weeks before his death.

Leonard Cohen
CC GOQ



Cohen in 1988

Background information

Birth name	Leonard Norman Cohen
Born	September 21, 1934 <div>Montreal, Quebec, Canada</div>
Died	November 7, 2016 (aged 82) <div>Los Angeles, California, U.S.</div>
Genres	Folk · soft rock · Country Music ^[1]
Occupation(s)	Singer · songwriter · musician · poet · novelist · painter
Instruments	Vocals · guitar · keyboard
Years active	1956–2016
Labels	Columbia
Website	leonardcohen.com

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