



# Harry Styles and other Music Figures



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# Harry Styles

## Introduction

Harry Edward Styles (born 1 February 1994) is an English singer, songwriter and actor. His musical career began in 2010 as a solo contestant on the British music competition series The X Factor. Following his elimination early on, he was brought back to join the boy band One Direction, which went on to become one of the best-selling boy bands of all time.

Styles released his self-titled debut solo album through Columbia Records in 2017. It debuted at number one in the UK and the US and became one of the world's top-ten best-selling albums of the year. Its lead single, "Sign of the Times", topped the UK Singles Chart. Styles made his acting debut in Christopher Nolan's 2017 war film Dunkirk. His second album, Fine Line (2019), debuted atop the US Billboard 200 with the biggest first-week sales by an English male artist in history, and was listed among Rolling Stone's "500 Greatest Albums of All Time" in 2020. Its fourth single, "Watermelon Sugar", topped the US Billboard Hot 100.

Throughout his career, Styles has earned several accolades, including two Brit Awards, a Grammy Award, an Ivor Novello Award, and an American Music Award. Aside from music, he is also known for his flamboyant fashion, and is the first man to appear solo on the cover of Vogue magazine.



Figure 1: Harry Styles for VOGUE

## Early life and education

Harry Edward Styles was born on 1 February 1994 in Redditch, Worcestershire, England, the son of landlady Anne Twist (née Selley, formerly Cox) and finance worker Desmond Styles. When he was a child, he moved with his parents and older sister, Gemma, to the village of Holmes Chapel in Cheshire. His parents divorced when he was seven years old, and his mother later remarried to business partner John Cox; the Coxes divorced years later. In 2013, she married Robin Twist, who died of cancer in 2017. Styles has an older stepbrother named Mike and a stepsister named Amy, children of Twist. Styles said he was always supported by his parents. As a child, he recorded covers on a karaoke machine he was given by his grandfather, and the first song he recorded was from Elvis Presley. Styles attended Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School, where he was the lead singer for the band White Eskimo, which won a local Battle of the Bands competition. At the age of 16, he worked part-time at the W. Mandeville Bakery in Holmes Chapel.

## 2010–2015: The X Factor and One Direction

Following a suggestion from his mother, on 11 April 2010, Styles auditioned as a solo contestant for the seventh series of the British televised singing competition The X Factor, singing a rendition of Stevie Wonder's "Isn't She Lovely". He advanced to bootcamp, but failed to progress further. Four others in his age group also failed, but they were put together as an ensemble in July 2010, during the bootcamp stage of the competition, thus qualifying for the "Groups" category mentored by Simon Cowell. The group consisting of Styles, Niall Horan, Liam Payne, Louis Tomlinson, and Zayn Malik, got together for two weeks to practice. Styles said he had suggested the name One Direction to his bandmates, and they agreed to keep it. They began to gain considerable popularity in the UK, and within the first four weeks of the live shows, they were Cowell's last act in the competition. The group eventually reached The X Factor final and finished in third place.

In January 2011, One Direction signed a recording contract with Cowell's label Syco Records. Their UK number one debut single, "What Makes You Beautiful", and their debut studio album, *Up All Night*, followed later that year. The album contained three songs co-written by Styles and made One Direction

the first British group to have their debut album reach number one in the United States. Their four succeeding studio albums, *Take Me Home* (2012), *Midnight Memories* (2013), *Four* (2014) and *Made in the A.M.* (2015), all debuted at number one in the UK. *Midnight Memories* was the world's best-selling album of 2013, and its accompanying *Where We Are Tour* was the highest-grossing tour of 2014 and remains the highest-grossing tour of all time by a vocal group.[29] After the release of *Four*, One Direction became the only group in the 58-year history of the Billboard 200 albums chart to have their first four albums debut at number one. The albums spawned a string of successful singles, including "Live While We're Young", "Little Things", "Best Song Ever", "Story of My Life", "Drag Me Down" and "History".

Not wanting to exhaust the fan base, upon Styles's suggestion the band went on an indefinite hiatus in 2016 after completing promotional activities related to *Made in the A.M.*. Over the course of their career, One Direction have sold 70 million records worldwide, including 7.6 million albums and 26 million singles in the US, becoming one of the best-selling boy bands of all time. The group amassed numerous accolades, including seven Brit Awards, seven American Music Awards, six Billboard Music Awards, and four MTV Video Music Awards.

While in the band, Styles co-wrote the song "Just a Little Bit of Your Heart" for Ariana Grande's album *My Everything* (2014).



*Figure 2: Harry Styles with the band One Direction*

## 2016–2018: Harry Styles and Dunkirk

As a solo artist, Styles joined Jeffrey Azoff's Full Stop Management as well as talent agency CAA, and signed a recording contract with Columbia Records in the first half of 2016. Around this time, he also launched his own record label, Erskine Records. Recording for Styles's debut album took place throughout 2016 in Los Angeles, London, and Port Antonio, Jamaica, where Styles and his collaborators had a two-month writing retreat in the autumn. In March 2017, he announced that his first solo single, "Sign of the Times", would be released on 7 April. The song went on to peak at number one on the UK Singles Chart and at number four on the Billboard Hot 100. It is a glam rock-influenced soft rock power ballad, and has drawn comparisons with the work of David Bowie. Rolling Stone ranked it as the best song of 2017. Its music video featured Styles flying and walking on water, and won the Brit Award for British Video of the Year. In April, Styles was a musical guest on Saturday Night Live in the US, and made his debut televised solo performance in his native country on The Graham Norton Show.

His self-titled debut album was released in May 2017, whereupon it debuted at number one in several countries, including Australia, the UK and the US. The album received generally favorable reviews from critics, and was included in several publications' lists of the best albums of 2017. Harry Styles yielded two more singles, "Two Ghosts" and "Kiwi". The film *Harry Styles: Behind the Album*, which documented the writing and recording process for the album, was also released in May exclusively on Apple Music. Styles embarked on his first headlining concert tour, *Harry Styles: Live on Tour*, from September 2017 through to July 2018, performing in North and South Americas, Europe, Asia, and Australia. The tour setlist included covers of Fleetwood Mac's "The Chain", several One Direction songs, as well as previously unreleased material.

Styles made his feature film debut in Christopher Nolan's war film *Dunkirk*, in July 2017, playing a British soldier named Alex who is a part of the Dunkirk evacuation in World War II. He appeared alongside an ensemble cast which included Fionn Whitehead, Tom Glynn-Carney, Jack Lowden, Kenneth Branagh, Cillian Murphy, Mark Rylance, and Tom Hardy. Styles won the part over a lot of people; Nolan later admitted he was unaware of the extent of his fame and that



Styles was cast because he fit for the role. The Daily Telegraph film critic Robbie Collin praised Styles for his talent.

In November 2017, BBC One broadcast Harry Styles at the BBC, a one-hour television special presented by Nick Grimshaw. At 2017 ARIA Music Awards, Styles received an award for Best International Artist. He guest hosted The Late Late Show with James Corden in December. Together with Jack Antonoff and Ilsey Juber, Styles co-wrote "Alfie's Song (Not So Typical Love Song)", performed by the band Bleachers, for the soundtrack of the film Love, Simon (2018). He also served as an executive producer on the CBS sitcom Happy Together, which premiered in October 2018 and was inspired by his time living with television producer Ben Winston. In 2018, Styles began modelling for the Italian fashion house Gucci, appearing in several campaigns for the brand.

### 2019–present: Fine Line and further acting roles

"Lights Up", the lead single from Styles's second album, Fine Line, was released in October 2019, debuting in third place in the UK. The song features a "soft-touch re-entry into the pop slipstream" according to music writer Jon Caramanica. Styles performed "double duty" as host and musical guest on Saturday Night Live in November. The second single preceding Fine Line, "Adore You", was released in December, peaking at number seven in the UK and at number six in the US. Styles also once again guest hosted The Late Late Show with James Corden that month.

Fine Line followed on 13 December. The album was recorded at the Shangri-La studio in Malibu, California, with the same production team behind Styles's debut album, and features a similar sound sonically to Harry Styles, while incorporating additional elements of funk and soul. It received generally positive reviews from critics. The album peaked at number two in the UK, and topped the US charts, breaking the record as the biggest sales debut from an English male artist in the US since Nielsen SoundScan began electronically tracking sales data in 1991. Singer-songwriter Stevie Nicks likened Fine Line to Fleetwood Mac's album Rumours and commented that it inspired her to write new music. Rolling Stone ranked it at number 491 in their 2020 list of the "500 Greatest Albums of All Time". Four other singles, "Falling", "Watermelon Sugar", "Golden" and "Treat

People with Kindness", were released from the album. "Watermelon Sugar" became Styles's fourth UK top-ten single, charting at number four, as well as his first number-one single in the US. A tour to support Fine Line, entitled Love on Tour, which was originally set to take place throughout 2020, was postponed until 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the 2020 Brit Awards, Styles was nominated for British Male Solo Artist and British Album of the Year. In March 2020, he performed an NPR Tiny Desk concert, and in July, he narrated a bedtime story titled Dream with Me for the relaxation app Calm. Later that year, Styles received the Favorite Pop/Rock Album for Fine Line at the 48th American Music Awards, the Best International Artist at the 34th ARIA Music Awards, and the Chart Achievement at the 27th Billboard Music Awards. He was also named Variety's Hitmaker of the Year. At the 63rd Annual Grammy Awards in March 2021, he received three nominations for Best Pop Vocal Album (Fine Line), Best Pop Solo Performance ("Watermelon Sugar") and Best Music Video ("Adore You"), winning Best Pop Solo Performance. "Watermelon Sugar" also earned him his second Brit Award for British Single of the Year during the 2021 ceremony.

At the 2021 Ivor Novello Awards, "Adore You" won the award for Most Performed Work. Styles made a cameo appearance as Eros / Starfox, the brother of Thanos, in the mid-credit's scene of the Marvel Cinematic Universe superhero film Eternals, which was released in November 2021. He also launched his cosmetics brand, Pleasing, that month. Styles is set to headline the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in April 2022. He will next star as Jack in the upcoming psychological thriller film Don't Worry Darling, directed by Olivia Wilde. He will also portray the titular policeman in My Policeman, a film adaptation of the 2012 novel of the same name.



*Figure 3: Harry Styles at a Love on Tour concert*

## Musical style and influences

Styles's musical style has been described as soft rock, pop, and rock, with elements of folk and Britpop. The musical style on his debut solo album was styled as classic rock and ballad. His debut album was influenced by the music he grew up listening to, such as Pink Floyd, The Rolling Stones, The Beatles and Fleetwood Mac, as well as the songwriting of Harry Nilsson. Styles praised Nilsson's lyrics. He has also cited Freddie Mercury, Elvis Presley, and Paul McCartney (including his side project Wings) as influences, while mentioning Shania Twain as his main inspiration both musically and in fashion.

Styles' favorite album is *Astral Weeks* by Northern Irish musician Van Morrison, which he called perfect; he also considers Etta James's album *At Last!* to be perfect. Joni Mitchell's 1971 album *Blue* inspired Styles to contact the album's dulcimer instrumentalist who in turn worked with him on *Fine Line*.

## Public image

Regarding Styles' time in One Direction, AllMusic writer Tim Sendra opined that he was incredible. In 2016, Styles cut his signature long hair, and was featured in *Another Man* magazine.

Styles wore skinny jeans, sheer blouses, floral prints, flamboyant suits, and heeled boots during his time in One Direction. Nicole Saunders of *Billboard*

noted that his fashion had evolved to be fabulous and 70's inspired. As a solo artist, he opted for custom pink suits, sequined tops, printed satin flares and gradually heightening heels. Styles began wearing sweater vests, baggy high-waisted pants, and a pearl necklace in 2019. For public appearances, he has incorporated a selection of Saint Laurent, Burberry, and Gucci, appearing in a few campaigns for the latter.

Styles won the British Style Award at the 2013 Fashion Awards. He was ranked first and fifth in 2016 and 2017, respectively, on British Vogue's "The 50 Fittest Boys" list. He was also voted the "Sexiest Male in Pop" for three consecutive years between 2016 and 2018 in a poll by British radio network Capital. In 2018, Styles was voted fourth on British GQ's list of 50 best-dressed men. He was voted GQ's Most Stylish Man of the Year in 2020.

Styles co-chaired the 2019 Met Gala, which coincided with the art exhibition Camp: Notes on Fashion, alongside journalist Anna Wintour, singer Lady Gaga, fashion designer Alessandro Michele and professional tennis player Serena Williams. In 2020, Styles became the first man to appear solo on the cover of Vogue, for its December issue. Following criticism from conservative commentators and activists for wearing a Gucci gown on the cover, Styles defended his decision by saying.

### Personal life

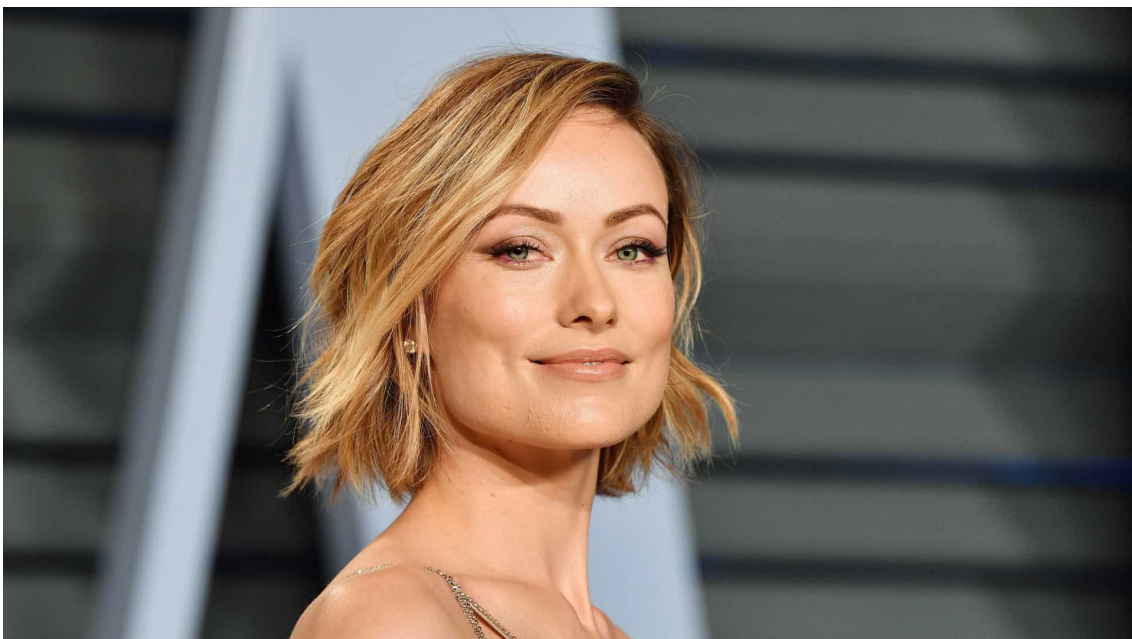
Styles splits his time between two homes in North London, having previously lived in the Sunset Strip area of West Hollywood, California. He sold his Los Angeles residence having become disillusioned with the city. He also owns a loft apartment in the Manhattan borough of New York City. He lived in the attic of producer Ben Winston's home in Hampstead Heath, London, for 20 months at the beginning of his career while he looked for his own house.

Styles believes in karma, and when Chelsea Handler asked if he believes in God, he stated that he considered himself to be spiritual and that there is something g above. In a 2020 interview with Vogue, Styles shared that he practices Pilates, meditates daily and that he had been adhering to a pescatarian diet for about three years.

From November 2011 to January 2012, 17-year-old Styles dated television presenter Caroline Flack; their relationship stirred controversy as she was fourteen years his senior. He briefly dated American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift later in 2012, leading to fan and media speculation about them writing songs about each other after their breakup. From 2017 to 2018, Styles was in a relationship with French American model Camille Rowe who inspired his 2019 album *Fine Line*. Since January 2021, Styles has been in a relationship with actress and director Olivia Wilde.

When Styles was asked in a 2013 interview with British *GQ* whether he was bisexual, he replied he wasn't. He later said in 2017 that he does not feel a need to label his sexual orientation. When *The Guardian* asked him in December 2019 about the authenticity of his flamboyant dressing style, the coloration of his *Fine Line* album sleeve resembling the bisexual flag, and his perceived sexual ambiguity, he stated:

In May 2019, Styles was named second on the *Sunday Times* Rich List of musicians in the UK under 30, with an estimated net worth of £58 million, having previously featured third on the previous year's list with an estimated net worth of £50 million. He maintained his position in second place on the list in 2020 and 2021 with an estimated net worth of £63 million and £75 million, respectively.



*Figure 4: Olivia Wilde, Harry's girlfriend*

## Philanthropy and advocacy

In 2013, Styles and fellow One Direction member Liam Payne became ambassadors for the cancer charity Trek stock, and raised over US\$800,000 through the online fundraising platform PledgeMusic. When the Westboro Baptist Church picketed a One Direction concert in July 2013, Styles used the moment to speak up. In 2014, Styles joined gay equality charity Stonewall's #FirstSnog campaign in celebration of their 25th anniversary, endorsed Emma Watson's HeForShe gender equality campaign, and showed support for Michael Sam, the first openly gay player drafted by an NFL team, by wearing his jersey on stage during One Direction's concert in St. Louis. In 2015, he sponsored water wells in India via Drop4Drop in support of Life Water's World Water Day campaign. The following year, he donated his hair to the UK charity Little Princess Trust, which supplies, and funds wigs made of real hair to children who have hair loss as a result of illnesses. In May 2017, to celebrate the release of his debut album, he played intimate shows at The Garage in London and at the Troubadour in Los Angeles, with all proceeds benefiting charities. That October, he performed alongside other artists at CBS Radio's We Can Survive concert at the Hollywood Bowl for breast cancer awareness. Styles' first tour raised US\$1.2 million in charity donations from ticket sales, Live Nation's contributions, and GLSEN's Pride campaign toward 62 charities around the world, while his second tour raised US\$1 million for its charity partners: Physicians for Reproductive Health, Black Voters Matter and Choose Love, as well as local efforts including aid for food insecure families in need during the holidays. Both tours also promoted water conservation via recycling and reducing plastic water bottle usage.

Styles has shown support for the LGBT community by waving a rainbow flag onstage, wearing LGBT-themed clothing and supporting LGBT fans in concerts. In 2018, his online store sold T-shirts with the slogan "Treat People with Kindness" in a rainbow print for Pride Month, with profits benefiting GLSEN. That year, Styles also tweeted in support of the March for Our Lives petition and added "Black Lives Matter" and "End Gun Violence" stickers to his guitar. Styles identifies as a feminist. In December 2019, in response to an interview question about not using his influence more often to support specific causes, Styles stated:

On the impact of events such as Brexit, the Black Lives Matter movement, and Donald Trump's presidency on his music, he said that. Styles leaned to the political left and paid a visit to the House of Lords in 2016 to attend a debate on Brexit following an invitation by Labor peer Lord Winston. Considering the murder of George Floyd in May 2020, Styles posted in support of Black Lives Matter urging fans to share and donate in support, and he pledged to donate to a bail fund for arrested Black Lives Matter activists. He attended a Los Angeles Black Lives Matter protest the following month. Despite being a British citizen, Styles endorsed Joe Biden in the 2020 United States presidential election.

### Treat People with Kindness

"Treat People with Kindness", also abbreviated to "TPWK", is a slogan used by Styles to promote his message of love, acceptance, and kindness to people. Styles started using the slogan in his debut concert tour in 2017, on a badge on his guitar, and on tour merchandise including Pride T-shirts sold to raise funds for GLSEN. This gave Styles the idea of writing a song to go with the slogan titled "Treat People with Kindness", which is the penultimate track on his second studio album, *Fine Line*.

In October 2019, teaser posters including the phrase "Do you know who you are?" and the acronym "TPWK" were spotted in London, Tokyo, Los Angeles, New York, and Australia; fans were able to connect the posters to Styles and his new album release because of the reference to his "Treat People with Kindness" motto. At the same time, to mark World Mental Health Day, Styles launched a website bot called "Do You Know Who You Are?" that gives users positive randomized messages using words and ending with.

### Harry Styles discography

As a solo artist, English singer Harry Styles has released two studio albums, one extended play (EP), one video album, ten singles, eight music videos and one promotional single. Styles' music career began in 2010 as a member of the boy band One Direction. Following the group's indefinite hiatus in 2016, he signed a recording contract with Columbia Records as a solo artist the same year. In April 2017, Styles released his debut single "Sign of the Times". It reached number one on the UK Singles Chart and number four on the US Billboard Hot

100, while also topping the singles chart in Australia; it was certified triple platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), and quadruple platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA).

The following month, Styles released his eponymous debut studio album, which included "Sign of the Times". The album reached number one in Australia, Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom, and the United States, where it was certified platinum. With over a million copies sold globally, it became one of the best-selling albums of 2017. The other singles from the album were "Two Ghosts" and "Kiwi".

In 2019, Styles' second studio album, *Fine Line*, was preceded by the release of two singles, "Lights Up" and "Adore You", both of which became top-ten hits on several singles charts, including Australia and the United Kingdom. *Fine Line*, released in December of that year, debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200, recording the highest first-week sales by a British male act in the United States. Styles became the first British male artist to have his first two albums debut atop the Billboard 200. *Fine Line* was certified platinum by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) and double platinum by the RIAA. The album spawned four more singles: "Falling", "Watermelon Sugar", "Golden", and "Treat People with Kindness". Its fourth single, "Watermelon Sugar", topped the Billboard Hot 100, becoming Styles' first number one in the United States, and earned multiple multi-platinum certifications, including five times platinum status in Canada.

Title	Details
Harry Styles	Released: 12 May 2017 Label: Columbia Format: DL, CD, LP, streaming
Fine Line	Released: 13 December 2019 Label: Columbia Format: DL, CD, LP, streaming, cassette

Table 1: Harry Styles' studio albums



# Arctic Monkeys

## Introduction

Arctic Monkeys are an English rock band formed in Sheffield in 2002. The group consists of Alex Turner (lead vocals, guitar, keyboards), Jamie Cook (guitar, keyboards), Nick O'Malley (bass guitar, backing vocals), and Matt Helders (drums, backing vocals). Former band member Andy Nicholson (bass guitar, backing vocals) left the band in 2006 shortly after their debut album was released.

Arctic Monkeys were heralded as one of the first bands to come to public attention via the Internet, with commentators suggesting they represented the possibility of a change in the way in which new bands are promoted and marketed. Their debut album, *Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not* (2006), became the fastest-selling debut album in UK chart history, and has been hailed as one of the greatest debut albums. It won Best British Album at the 2007 Brit Awards. The band's second album, *Favorite Worst Nightmare* (2007), was also acclaimed by critics and won Best British Album at the 2008 BRIT Awards. They went on to release *Humbug* (2009) and *Suck It and See* (2011).

The band's global recognition increased with their critically acclaimed fifth album *AM* (2013), which was supported by the global hit "Do I Wanna Know?". It topped four Billboard charts and was certified platinum in the US. At the 2014 BRIT Awards, the album became their third to win British Album of the Year. Their sixth album, *Tranquility Base Hotel & Casino* (2018), was a major departure from the band's previous guitar-heavy work, instead being piano-oriented. It received a Best Alternative Music Album nomination at the 2019 Grammy Awards, their second to do so after *Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not*.

As of 2022, Arctic Monkeys have sold over 23 million records worldwide. In the United Kingdom, the band became the first independent-label band to debut at number one in the UK with their first six albums. The band have won seven Brit Awards; winning Best British Group and British Album of the Year three times; a Mercury Prize for *Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not*, an Ivor Novello Award, and 20 NME Awards. In addition, they have been nominated for five Grammy Awards, and received Mercury Prize nominations in 2007, 2013, and 2018. Both *Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not* and *AM* are

included in NME's and different editions of Rolling Stone's 500 Greatest Albums of All Time lists.



Figure 5: Arctic Monkeys



Figure 6: Alex Turner

# Taylor Swift

## Introduction

Taylor Alison Swift (born December 13, 1989) is an American singer-songwriter. Her discography spans multiple genres, and her narrative songwriting, which is often inspired by her personal life, has received widespread media coverage and critical praise. Born in West Reading, Pennsylvania, Swift relocated to Nashville, Tennessee, at the age of 14 to pursue a career in country music. She signed a songwriting deal with Sony/ATV Music Publishing in 2004 and a recording deal with Big Machine Records in 2005, before releasing her eponymous debut studio album in 2006.

Swift explored country pop on the albums *Fearless* (2008) and *Speak Now* (2010); the success of "Love Story" and "You Belong with Me" as singles on both country and pop radio established her as a leading crossover artist. She experimented with pop, rock, and electronic genres on her fourth studio album, *Red* (2012), supported by the singles "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together" and "I Knew You Were Trouble". With her synth-pop fifth studio album *1989* (2014) and its chart-topping songs "Shake It Off", "Blank Space", and "Bad Blood", Swift shed her country image and transitioned to pop completely. The subsequent media scrutiny on Swift's personal life influenced her sixth album *Reputation* (2017), which delved into urban sounds, led by the single "Look What You Made Me Do".

Parting ways with Big Machine to sign with Republic Records in 2018, Swift released her next studio album, *Lover* (2019). Inspired by escapism during the COVID-19 pandemic, Swift ventured into indie folk and alternative rock styles on her 2020 studio albums, *Folklore* and *Evermore*, receiving acclaim for their nuanced storytelling. To gain ownership over the masters of her back catalog, she released the re-recordings *Fearless (Taylor's Version)* and *Red (Taylor's Version)* in 2021. Besides music, Swift has played supporting roles in films such as *Valentine's Day* (2010) and *Cats* (2019), has released the autobiographical documentary *Miss Americana* (2020), and directed the musical films *Folklore: The Long Pond Studio Sessions* (2020) and *All Too Well: The Short Film* (2021).

Having sold over 200 million records worldwide, Swift is one of the best-selling musicians of all time. Eight of her songs have reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100, and her concert tours are some of the highest grossing in history. She has received 11 Grammy Awards (including three Album of the Year wins), an Emmy Award, 34 American Music Awards (the most for an artist), 25 Billboard Music Awards (the most for a woman) and 56 Guinness World Records, among other accolades. She featured on Rolling Stone's 100 Greatest Songwriters of All Time (2015) and Billboard's Greatest of All Time Artists (2019) lists and rankings such as the Time 100 and Forbes Celebrity 100. Named Woman of the 2010s Decade by Billboard and Artist of the 2010s Decade by the American Music Awards, Swift has been recognized for her influential career and philanthropy, as well as advocacy of artists' rights and women's empowerment in the music industry.



*Figure 7: Taylor Swift*



*Figure 8: Taylor Swift on stage with her guitar*

## Måneskin

### Introduction

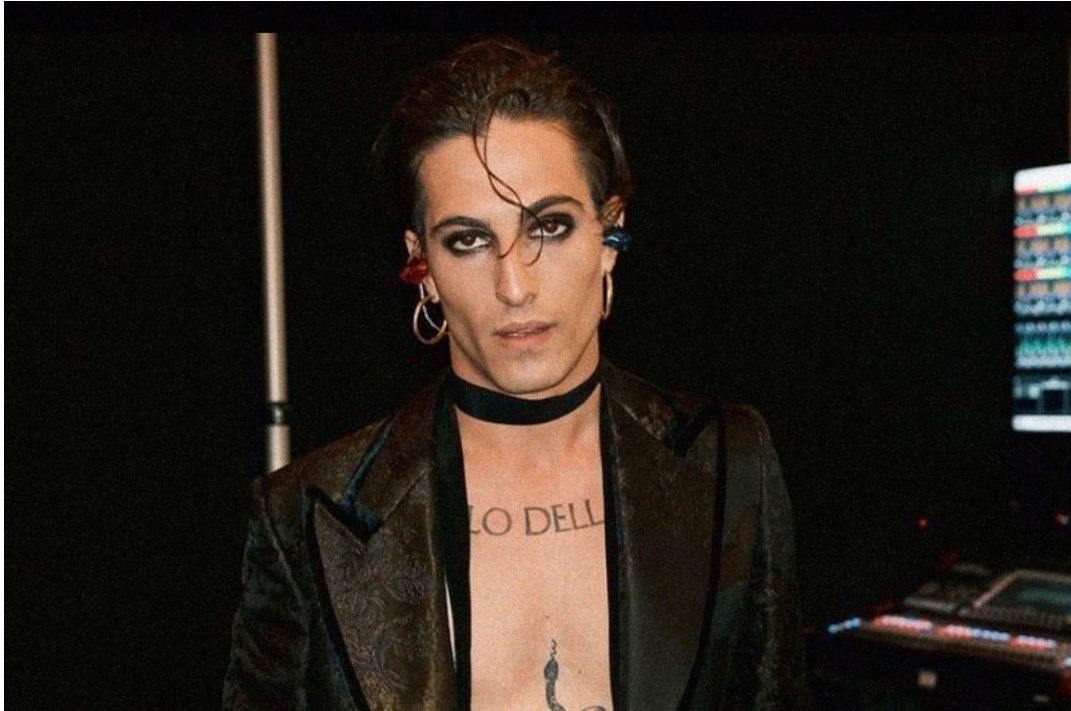
Måneskin is an Italian rock band formed in Rome in 2016. The band is composed of vocalist Damiano David, bassist Victoria De Angelis, guitarist Thomas Raggi, and drummer Ethan Torchio. Performing in the streets in their early days, they rose to prominence after finishing second in the eleventh season of the Italian talent show X Factor in 2017. Their international breakthrough ensued when the foursome won the Eurovision Song Contest 2021 for Italy with the song "Zitti e buoni".

The band has released two studio albums, entitled *Il ballo della vita* (2018) and *Teatro d'ira: Vol. I* (2021). They have also released one extended-play and ten singles, which have topped the Italian and European music charts. They have collected 34 platinum and 7 gold certifications from FIMI, and have sold over one million records in Italy before their post-Eurovision breakthrough. Up to that point in their career, their most successful Italian single was "Torna a casa". In 2021,

Måneskin became the first Italian rock band to reach the top 10 on the UK Singles Chart, with their songs "Zitti e buoni", "I Wanna Be Your Slave" and their cover of The Four Seasons' "Beggin'" reaching the top 10 on the Billboard Global Excl. U.S. chart, collecting multiple international certifications for sales of over three million copies internationally, and four million in total.



*Figure 9: Maneskin*



*Figure 10: Damiano David from Maneskin*



*Figure 11: Victoria de Angelis from Maneskin*



Figure 12: Maneskin at Eurovision



Figure 13: Ethan Torchio from Maneskin





*Figure 14: Thomas Raggi from Maneskin*

## 5 Seconds of Summer

### Introduction

5 Seconds of Summer, often shortened to 5SOS (pronounced as '5 sos'), are an Australian pop rock band from Sydney, New South Wales, formed in late 2011. The group consists of lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist Luke Hemmings, lead guitarist Michael Clifford, bassist Calum Hood, and drummer Ashton Irwin. Originally beginning their career as YouTube celebrities, they rose to international fame while touring with English Irish boy band One Direction on their Take Me Home Tour. Since 2014, 5 Seconds of Summer have sold more than 10 million albums, sold over 2 million concert tickets worldwide, and the band's songs streams surpass 7 billion, making them one of the most successful Australian musical exports in history.

In early 2014, the band released "She Looks So Perfect" which topped the charts in four countries. Their self-titled debut album was released in 2014, peaking at number one in 11 countries. The band released their second album Sounds Good Feels Good in 2015, topping the charts in 8 countries. The band's third album Youngblood, released in 2018, was a commercial success and

became their third number one album in their home country. In the US, 5 Seconds of Summer became the first Australian act to achieve three number one albums on the Billboard 200 album chart. They also became the first band (not vocal group) to have their first three full-length albums debut at the top in the US. The album's single, "Youngblood" is the fourth highest selling Australian single of the 2010-2019 decade and is the eleventh best-selling single in Australian history, selling over five million adjusted copies worldwide within the first six months of its release. With the release of "Youngblood", 5 Seconds of Summer became the first Australian act in 13 years to top ARIA year-end chart and remain the second longest stint at number one in ARIA chart history. In 2020, the band released their fourth studio album *Calm*. The album was a commercial success, receiving positive reviews from critics, charting in more than 25 countries on multiple charts, peaking in the 10 top on 17 charts and debuting atop the charts in 4 countries. With *Calm* earning the band their fourth consecutive number one in their home country, 5 Seconds of Summer became the second Australian band in history to have their first four full-length studio albums debut at number one on the ARIA albums chart.

All singles from the band's four studio albums, as well as all four albums, have charted in multiple countries, received multiple official sale certifications, and have been featured in numerous weekly and year-end charts, as well as making an appearance on decade-end charts. The band has received numerous accolades and awards, including being honored with the prestigious APRA Outstanding International Achievement Award in 2019, being placed on Billboard's Top Artists of the 2010s chart, which lists the most popular and successful artists of the 2010-2019 decade and being credited in the exclusive APRA AMCOS 1,000,000,000 List in 2020. As of mid-2020, the band's estimated net worth is approximately US\$81 million.



*Figure 15: Luke Hemmings from 5sos*



*Figure 16: Calum Hood from 5sos*



*Figure 17: Michael Clifford from 5sos*



*Figure 18: Ashton Irwin from 5sos*

# Olivia Rodrigo

## Introduction

Olivia Isabel Rodrigo (born February 20, 2003) is an American singer-songwriter and actress. She gained recognition with her lead roles on the Disney television programmed *Bizaardvark* and *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series*. After signing with Geffen and Interscope Records, Rodrigo released her debut single "Drivers License" in 2021, which broke various records and became one of the best-selling songs of the year, propelling her to mainstream fame. She followed it up with the singles "Deja Vu" and "Good 4 U".

Rodrigo's debut studio album, *Sour* (2021), topped charts globally and was met with widespread critical acclaim. She is nominated in seven categories at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards, including Best New Artist, Album of the Year for *Sour*, and Record of the Year and Song of the Year for "Drivers License". *Time* named her the 2021 Entertainer of the Year and *Billboard* named her Woman of the Year in 2022, making her the first Asian-American artist to be honored.



Figure 19: Olivia Rodrigo

# Miley Cyrus

## Introduction

Miley Ray Cyrus is an American singer, songwriter, actress, and television personality. Known for her distinctive raspy voice, her music incorporates elements of varied styles and genres, including pop, country pop, hip hop, experimental, and rock. She has attained the most US Billboard 200 top-five albums in the 21st century by a female artist, with a total of thirteen entries.

Cyrus, a daughter of country music singer Billy Ray Cyrus, emerged as a teen idol while portraying the title character of the Disney Channel television series *Hannah Montana* (2006–2011). As *Hannah Montana*, she attained two number-one and three top-five soundtracks on the US Billboard 200, including the US Billboard Hot 100 top-ten single "He Could Be the One". Cyrus's own discography includes the US number-one albums *Meet Miley Cyrus* (2007), *Breakout* (2008), and *Bangerz* (2013); the top-five releases *Can't Be Tamed* (2010), *Younger Now* (2017), *Plastic Hearts* (2020) and the free album *Miley Cyrus & Her Dead Petz* (2015). Cyrus's EPs *the Time of Our Lives* (2009) and *She Is Coming* (2019) also debuted in the top-five. *Plastic Hearts* became Cyrus's most acclaimed record, and her first entry on the Billboard Rock Chart, debuting atop the chart. It included the lead single "Midnight Sky". Her other singles include the US top ten-charting "See You Again", "7 Things", "The Climb", "Party in the U.S.A.", "Can't Be Tamed", "We Can't Stop", "Malibu", "Without You"; and the chart-topping "Wrecking Ball". In 2020, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) awarded Diamond certification to "Party in the U.S.A.", recognizing single sales of ten million.

Cyrus's career accolades include entries on the Time 100 list in 2008 and 2014, MTV's Best Artist of 2013 Award, and placement on Billboard's Greatest of All Time Artists Chart in 2019. She is regarded as one of the few examples of successful child actors-turned-singers. As an actress, Cyrus has made appearances in the animated film *Bolt* (2008) and the feature films *Hannah Montana: The Movie* (2009) and *The Last Song* (2010). On television, Cyrus served as a coach on the singing competition series *The Voice* across two seasons, and starred in the episode "Rachel, Jack and Ashley Too" of the Netflix

series *Black Mirror* (2019). Cyrus is an advocate for animal rights and adopted a vegan lifestyle in 2014. She founded the non-profit Happy Hippie Foundation in late 2014, which focuses on youth homelessness and the LGBT community.



Figure 20: Miley Cyrus

## The Neighbourhood

### Introduction

The Neighbourhood (sometimes rendered as "THE NBHD") is an American rock band formed in Newbury Park, California, in 2011. The band is composed of vocalist Jesse Rutherford, guitarists Jeremy Freedman and Zach Abels, bassist Mikey Margott, and drummer Brandon Alexander Fried. After releasing two EPs, *I'm Sorry...* and *Thank You*, The Neighbourhood released its first full-length album *I Love You.* on April 23, 2013, via Columbia Records.[3] The same year, the EP "The Love Collection" was released; and in November 2014, a mixtape titled *#000000 & #FFFFFF*. A second album, *Wiped Out!* was released on October 30, 2015. On March 9, 2018, a self-titled third studio album came out, preceded by the release of two EPs: *Hard* on September 22, 2017, which briefly

charted on the Billboard 200, and *To Imagine* on January 12, 2018. After the release of the album, the tracks from the extended plays not included on the final track listing were collected in another EP, *Hard to Imagine*.



*Figure 21: The Neighbourhood*