



# STEVIE WONDER



American singer, songwriter, musician and record producer.

He is known for being one of the most successful songwriters in musical history and is well-known for his innovative sound and clever use of electronic instruments.

## PERSONAL AND FAMILY INFORMATION

Stevie Wonder was born on May 13, 1950 in Saginaw in Michigan, USA. He was the third of six children born to Calvin Judkins and songwriter Lula Mae Hardaway. When Stevie was four, his mother divorced his father, and moved with her children to Detroit, Michigan, USA. Stevie's real name is Stevland Hardaway Morris but he is known professionally as Stevie Wonder.

## HEALTH

Superstar singer-songwriter Stevie Wonder lost his sight as a new born baby when he came into the world six weeks early. He had an eye disorder caused by abnormal blood vessels throughout the retina which results in blindness. Stevie has always worn the same type of dark shaded lenses for his eyewear, which have included red, orange, brown, black and metal frames throughout his career.



## MUSIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- Over the years Wonder has achieved:
- 32 number 1 R&B and Pop singles
- 49 Top 40 R&B and Pop singles
- 25 Grammy Awards
- The Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1996.

He collected an Academy Award for the 1984 hit "I Just Called to Say I Love You" from the film *The Woman in Red*

In 1980 he released "Happy Birthday" in honour of Martin Luther King Jr which was used in order to have the now national holiday named after the civil rights leader.



During that same decade, the hits continued with the UK chart topper “I just called to say I love you” and “Part Time Lover”. He has also been socially aware with speaking out against racism especially during the apartheid era. He contributed to the USA for Africa single in 1985.

#### FIND OUT MORE

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/06/07/us/stevie-wonder-fast-facts>

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#### EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. What is Stevie Wonder’s real name?
2. Name 3 of the genres of music Stevie Wonder was famous for?
3. How did Stevie Wonder become blind?
4. How many Grammy Awards did Stevie Wonder receive?
5. In 1980 why did Stevie Wonder release a song called ‘Happy Birthday’?