

THE COUNTRY GIRL

1980'S



CARRIE UNDERWOOD BIOGRAPHY:

Carrie Underwood was the youngest child in her family, having two older sisters who were 10 and 13 by the time she came along. She grew up in the country, and loved to catch little woodland creatures, climb trees, and sing.

Carrie sang in her church, and starred in many of the musicals at her elementary school. When she was older, she asked her mother to take her to local talent shows, where she competed.



Carrie Underwood

2001



THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION :

In high school, while she still performed at fairs, church, school events, and such, she really focused on her education, and graduated second in her class in May 2001.

Carrie attended the College at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK, where she majored in journalism. In 2005, she saw in the news that people in Cleveland were sleeping outside in hopes of auditioning for the 2005 season of American Idol. People had always told her that she should try out, so she located the closest location, which was St. Louis, and the rest was history.

Carrie has sold more than 10 million albums with her first two records, and the excitement is high for more great music with news that November 3 will be the release date for her yet-to-be-titled third album. Released on 19 Recordings/Arista Nashville, Carrie's upcoming album will continue her amazing collaboration with producer Mark Bright, who helmed 2007's hit-filled *Carnival Ride*, as well as seven tracks from Carrie's blockbuster debut, *Some Hearts*.

Carrie became the first country artist in history to achieve 10 #1 singles from their first two albums when "I Told You So" became the fifth consecutive chart-topper from *Carnival Ride*, which also included the smash, "Just a Dream," and three hits Carrie co-wrote: "All-American Girl," "So Small," and "Last Name."

The reigning ACM Entertainer of the Year and three-time, reigning ACM and CMA Female Vocalist is currently in the process of recording her new project, with a new single expected to arrive at radio late this summer.

The only American Idol winner ever to achieve 10 #1 hits, Carrie's collection of chart-toppers began with the instant success of her post-American Idol single, "Inside Your Heaven," which debuted atop Billboard's Hot 100 chart in the summer of 2005. It was the first of five #1s to top the BDS or Mediabase charts from her 7x-Platinum debut, *Some Hearts*, with the others including the GRAMMY-winning "Jesus, Take the Wheel" and "Before He Cheats," as well as "Don't Forget to Remember Me" and "Wasted."

2005



AFTER WINNING AMERICAN IDOL :

After winning American Idol in 2005, she embarked on the multi-city American Idol tour, and recorded her first album, *Some Hearts*. Little did Carrie know that in two years, the album would sell over seven million copies.

Carrie released her sophomore album, *Carnival Ride*, in 2007, and people waited to see if the country sweetheart could continue the success she had with her debut album. In under a year, the album has sold over two million copies, and many say that this album is even stronger than her first.

LIST OF AWARDS FOR UNDERWOOD

- 2010: CMT Music Awards: Video of the Year
- 2009: Academy of Country Music: Entertainer of the Year
- 2009: Grammy: Best Country Collaboration With Vocals
- 2008: Academy of Country Music: Top Female Vocalist
- 2008: CMA: Female Vocalist of the Year
- 2008: Grammy: Best Country Song
- 2008: Grammy: Best Female Country Vocal Performance
- 2007: CMA: Female Vocalist of the Year
- 2007: CMA: Single of the Year
- 2007: CMT Music Awards: Female Video of the Year
- 2007: CMT Music Awards: Video Director of the Year
- 2007: CMT Music Awards: Video of the Year
- 2007: Grammy: Best Country Song
- 2007: Grammy: Best Female Country Vocal Performance
- 2006: Academy of Country Music: Album of the Year



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TAYLOR SWIFT BIOGRAPHY:

Taylor Alison Swift was born on December 13, 1989 in Reading, Pennsylvania. Growing up, she developed a love for country music, especially Patsy Cline and Dolly Parton. By the age of 10, she began performing around her hometown, at festivals, fairs and sang at karaoke contests. She started writing songs at the age of 12, and this was the same time she got her first guitar. At the age of 14, she became the youngest songwriter signed to a publishing deal with Sony/ATV.



2007



THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION :

Her album reached the No. 1 spot on the charts, and did so well that her label decided to re-package it with some video content, a few more songs, and release it as a Deluxe Limited Edition. Fans could listen to several new songs, watch all the videos released up until that time, plus watch a movie edited by Taylor herself.

In April, Taylor won her first award, at the CMT Music Awards, for "Breakthrough Video," for "Tim McGraw." She was so ecstatic, that she promised to take the award with her out on the road with Brad Paisley later that year. And, she did.

Taylor Swift catapulted the young songwriter to stardom, spawned a handful of hits (five consecutive Top Ten singles, a new record for a female solo artist), and earned multi-platinum status. Swift also received a Grammy nomination for Best New Artist, an award she ultimately lost to Amy Winehouse.

Swift's debut record made her a queen in the country world, but 2008's Fearless positioned her as the year's biggest star of any genre. The sophomore album went gold during its first week of release; combined with the sales of its predecessor, it also made Swift the highest-grossing artist of 2008. The accolades increased in 2009, when Fearless went multi-platinum and took home two ACM awards, five American Music Awards, five CMAs, two CMTs, and a controversial trophy at the MTV Video Music Awards (Kanye West infamously stormed the stage during Swift's acceptance speech to throw his support to Beyoncé, claiming she deserved the award instead). Meanwhile, "You Belong with Me" peaked at number two on the pop charts, officially cementing Swift's status as a crossover artist. By the time 2009 drew to a close, Fearless had sold nearly six million copies in America alone, making it the year's best-selling album.

Swift kicked off the new year by contributing two songs to the Valentine's Day soundtrack. She also made a cameo in the film, playing the high-school sweetheart of her real-life boyfriend, Taylor Lautner. Swift then focused her attention on wrapping up her third album, Speak Now, which she'd written entirely on her own throughout the two previous years.

2008



AFTER WINNING AMERICAN IDOL :

In November 2008, she released her sophomore release, titled Fearless. The singles "Love Story" and "You Belong With Me" soared to the top of the Billboard charts, earned Taylor various awards including the 2010 Grammy for Album of the Year, and it ultimately became the best-selling album of 2009.

Preceded by the single "Mine," which hit the top of the iTunes chart in just a few hours of release, Taylor continued her winning streak with the October 2010 release of her third album, Speak Now. The album was sold by millions.

LIST OF AWARDS FOR SWIFT

- 2010 People's Choice Awards: Favorite Female Artist
- 2010 CMT Music Awards: Video of the Year
- 2010 CMT Music Awards: Female Video of the Year
- 2010 CMT Music Awards: Collaborative Video of the Year
- 2009 Grammy: Best Female Country Vocal Performance
- 2009 Grammy: Best Country Song
- 2009 Grammy: Best Country Album
- 2009 Grammy: Album of the Year
- 2009 CMT Music Awards: Video of the Year
- 2009 CMT Music Awards: Female Video of the Year
- 2009 CMT Music Awards: Wide Open Country Video
- 2009 CMT Music Awards: CMT Performance of the Year
- 2008 CMT Music Awards: Video of the Year
- 2008 CMT Music Awards: Female Video of the Year
- 2007 CMT Music Awards: Breakthrough Video of the Year

