



Elton John

Composer of the Week





Born in Pinner, Middlesex, in
the UK on 25th March 1947

His original name was Reginald Dwight.

He decided to change his name and used the names of two members of a band he was playing with at the time

Bluesology.

The saxophone player was called Elton Dean and the lead singer was Long John Baldry, he put them together to become Elton John.

Elton John has composed many styles of popular music and is known for his showy performances, just like Elvis Presley.

During his career he has sold hundreds of millions of records.

He received a scholarship to study the piano at The Royal Academy of Music when he was 11 years old.

There is a story that he was able to play a piece of Handel, completely accurately, by ear, after only hearing it once.

He left there, at the age of 16, to join **Bluesology**.

In 1967 Elton met Bernie Taupin. He was given an envelope containing several song **lyrics** (words) that Bernie had written and Elton came up with the music. They wrote for other people before Elton began singing the songs himself. They have written together to this day.



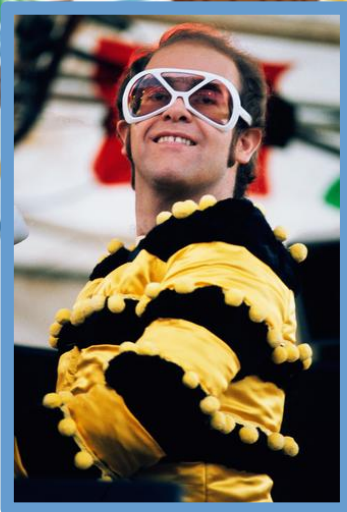
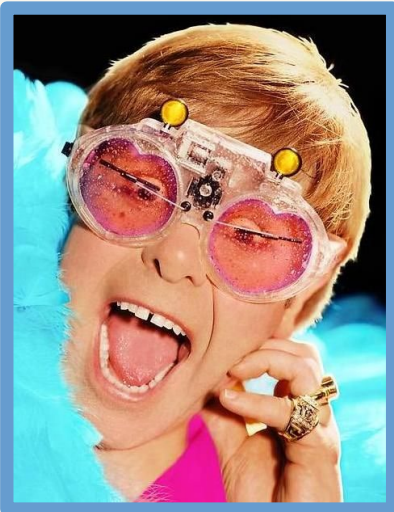


Elton's first hit as a singer was "**Your Song**", it reached number seven in the UK Singles Chart and number eight in the US. This is the piano it was written on.





He likes to wear 'interesting' glasses!



In 1994 he wrote the Music for the Disney film 'The Lion King', with lyricist Tim Rice, and the song 'Can You Feel the Love Tonight' won an Oscar.





In 1997, after the death of Dianna, Princess of Wales, Bernie Taupin re-wrote the lyrics of an earlier song Candle in the Wind, for Elton to sing at her funeral in Westminster Abbey. This became the most successful pop single in history, selling over 33 million copies. The proceeds, 55 million pounds were all donated to Princess Diana's charities.





He likes to wear spectacular outfits!



Elton loved football and became the chairman and director of Watford F.C. in 1976, after supporting the team since he was a boy. He invested large sums of money as the club rose three divisions into the English First Division (today's Premiership).

In December 2014 Watford opened the Sir Elton John Stand in his honour.



In 2019 the film Rocketman was made about his life. Elton wrote the song I'm Gonna Love Me Again (with Bernie Taupin) for the film and he won his second Oscar.



Elton John has said he would never have been able to compose and perform without the piano music of Chopin, Mozart and Debussy that he learnt at the Royal Academy of Music. He has set up a scholarship fund, for eight students a year, to study there, who would otherwise be unable to afford the fees.





Elton John is well known for his charity work.

He has set up and funded the Elton John AIDS Foundation to fund programmes for the prevention and treatment of that disease.



Music has healing power. It has the ability to take people out of themselves for a few hours.

— *Elton John* —

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