

# MUSICIAN MUSINGS



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Thanks to a degree in art and graphic design from Ealing Art College, Mercury was more than just the face of the band - he also helped brand them.

The crest he designed for the band features the zodiac signs of the members. The 'Q' and the crown represent the band name while a phoenix protects the unit.

Long before he became one of the most celebrated singers in music history, Mercury held a slightly less glamorous position: a baggage handler at Heathrow Airport.

# JANUARY 2020



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Elvis purchased his first guitar when he was just 11. Though he wanted a rifle, his mama convinced him to buy a guitar instead.

During his lifetime he recorded over 600 songs, but did not write any of them. Elvis' 1960 hit, 'It's Now or Never' inspired a prisoner who heard it in jail so much that he vowed to pursue a career in music once released. This was none other than Barry White, serving a 4-month sentence for stealing tires.

Elvis was distantly related to former U.S. Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Jimmy Carter.

# FEBRUARY 2020



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**PRINCE**

His real name was Prince. Besides penning songs for himself, he also composed 'Manic Monday' for the Bangles, 'I Feel For You' for Chaka Khan, and 'Nothing Compares 2 U' for Sinéad O'Connor.

In the week of July 27, 1984, Prince's film, 'Purple Rain', topped the box office. Its soundtrack was the top-selling album and the single, 'When Doves Cry', became No. 1.

After Prince's death, the global color authority, Pantone, created a royal shade of purple in his honor, appropriately named after his symbol: Love Symbol #2.

# MARCH 2020



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Look closely at the album cover of Abbey Road: you will find Paul McCartney barefoot.

The Beatles auditioned for Decca Records in 1962, but were turned away because Decca claimed, "Groups with guitars are on the way out". Instead, they opted for a local, cheaper band. This is widely considered to be one of the biggest mistakes in music history.

Bob Dylan introduced the Beatles to marijuana. Paul McCartney later became an advocate for it's legalization.



# APRIL 2020



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# MUSICIAN MUSINGS



This Swedish pop sensation had to negotiate rights to the name ABBA with the Abba Seafood company, a canned herring giant at the time.

3.5 million people applied for tickets to their 1977 tour shows at the Royal Albert Hall. ABBA could have sold out the venue hundreds of times.

However, despite being a global phenomenon, ABBA was never a major chart success, climbing only to No. 14. It was only after the hit movie, 'Mamma Mia!', that the soundtrack went to No. 1 on Billboard in 2008.



# MAY 2020

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Jagger graduated from the prestigious London School of Economics in 1961 before focusing on his band.

Following the success of the Stones' 1983 record, 'Undercover', they signed a three-album deal with CBS Records. Jagger also negotiated a side-deal to record his solos. His first solo album, 'She's The Boss', was released in 1985. It wasn't as successful as the Rolling Stones' albums, but it still went platinum.

Jagger is a sports enthusiast, especially of cricket and soccer.



# JUNE 2020

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Glenn Fry and Don Henley played in the backup band for Liz Taylor's daughter, Linda Ronstadt.

Their 'Greatest Hits' album is the third best-selling album in history, behind Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' and Pink Floyd's 'Dark Side of the Moon' and went platinum 29 times in the United States.

The band sued the American Eagle Foundation for using the domain name, eagles.org, and the phone number, 1-800-2-EAGLES. However, the case was dismissed because the band kept missing court dates.



# JULY 2020

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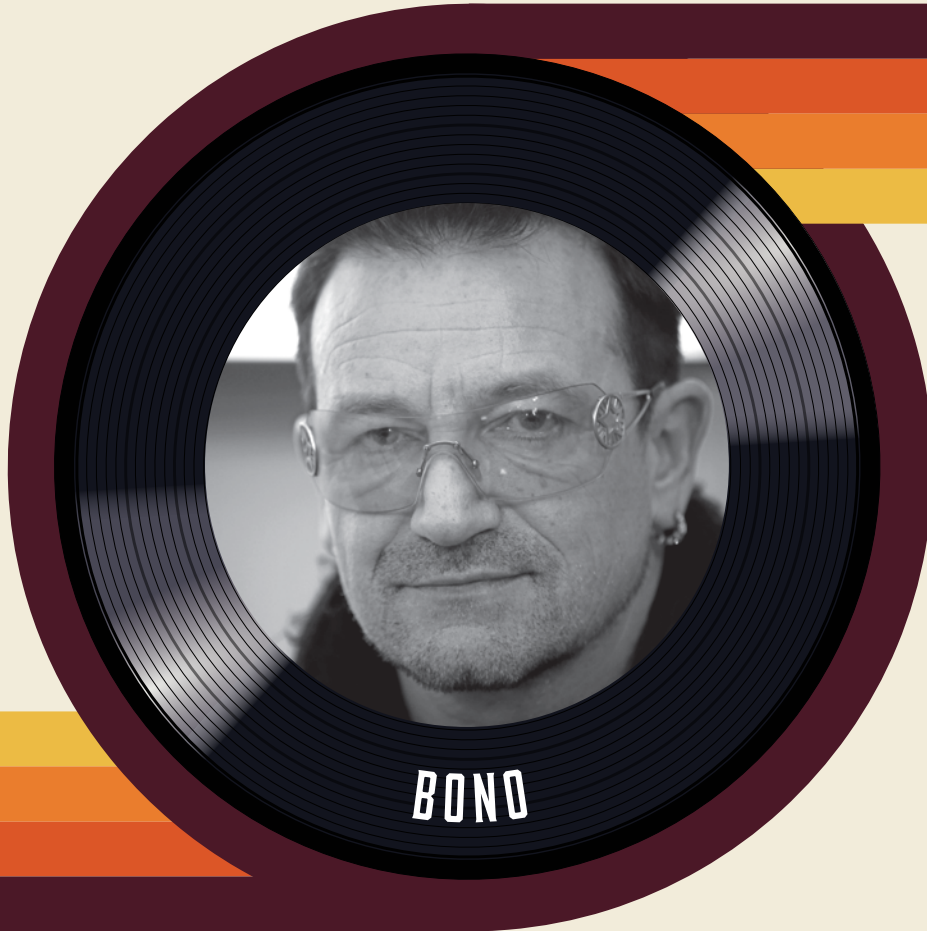
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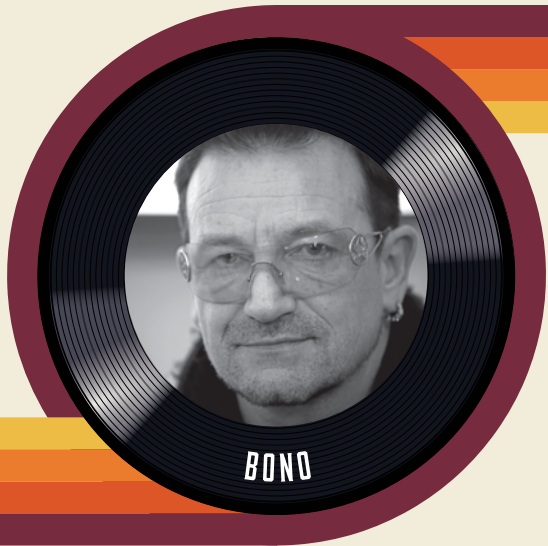


As a teenager, 'Paul Hewson' was part of a street gang where his fellow members called him 'Bono Vox', the name of a local store that sold hearing aids named Bonavox which translates to 'Good Voice'. It was later shortened to 'Bono'.

When Bono was looking for a place in New York City in the early 90s, he found one he liked and paid \$15 million for it. He bought it from Steve Jobs.

He is always seen in his sunglasses as he suffers from glaucoma, resulting in a sensitivity to light.





# AUGUST 2020

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On October 27, 1975, Bruce Springsteen made history by becoming the first rock star to feature on the cover of Time and Newsweek magazines in the same week.

In 2009, when Springsteen was honoured at the Kennedy Centre, Barack Obama said, "I may be the President, but he is 'The Boss.'"

# SEPTEMBER 2020



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As a child, Phil played a small role in the movie, 'A Hard Day's Night'.

He had more Top 40 hits on the Billboard Hot 100 charts than any other artist during the 80's.

Phil is a big supporter of animal rights and PETA. He co-founded 'The Little Dream Foundation' with a mission to fulfill the dreams of young talent who lacked financial support.

He has been married and divorced thrice, paying out nearly \$100 million in divorce settlements.

# OCTOBER 2020



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**BILLY JOEL**

After the failure of Joel's first album, he moved to LA, where he played the piano at The Executive Room on Wilshire Boulevard as 'Bill Martin'. 'Piano Man' was inspired by the patrons he met there in 1972.

He believes in ghosts. During an interview with Howard Stern, he said, he once saw the spirit of a 19th-century woman sitting in his East Hampton home. He later sold that house to comedian Jerry Seinfeld.

The lyrics of 'We didn't start the fire' list the events of the Cold War, that Joel felt his generation was not responsible for, but inherited.

# NOVEMBER 2020



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Clapton is the only artist to be inducted into the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame thrice. First as a member of the Yardbirds, then as a member of Cream and lastly as a solo musician.

He is known to be a 'petrolhead' (a person who is overly reliant on the use of a car) and is an avid collector of Ferraris.

Clapton played his guitar so hard that he often broke his guitar strings. The audience waited patiently and slow clapped while he changed them, earning him his nickname, 'Slowhand'.



# DECEMBER 2020



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# GIVING CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE...

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