

# Stevie Wonder



Stevie Wonder early in his career

Stevie Wonder was born in 1950 in Saginaw, Michigan. His legal name is Stevland Hardaway Morris, but he uses the name Stevie Wonder when he performs.

Stevie Wonder lost his eyesight shortly after he was born. He began playing different musical instruments, such as the piano, the drums and the guitar when he was very young. He also sang in the church choir. When he was just 11 years old, he began his musical career. His first hit was in 1963, where he sang and played the bongos and the harmonica. The song, "Fingertips (Pt. 2)," became a number one hit. Stevie was 13 years old.

Over his career, Stevie Wonder has had more than 30 top ten hits and has won the most Grammy Awards by a solo artist. He was awarded a Grammy

for Lifetime Achievement in 1996, as well as the Gershwin Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2009. He also has received an Academy Award for Best Song. Stevie Wonder is a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Today, Stevie Wonder is a songwriter, composer, singer and musician. He performs around the world, often to help other people, such as when he performed in Haiti to help the victims of the Haiti earthquake. He is considered one of the best musical artists of all time.



Stevie Wonder received the Gershwin Award for Lifetime Achievement from President Obama in 2009

## What Do You Think?

Stevie Wonder sings in front of thousands of people each year. Since he has a visual disability, he cannot see his audience. Do you think it is harder or easier for him to perform if he can't see his audience? Why?

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