

QUEEN

Sterling song craft, virtuoso musicality, outrageous glamour and colossal spectacle: Queen has over four decades continued to find new fans and hold an indelible influence on generations of music makers.

Despite the loss of lead singer and songwriting partner Freddie Mercury more than 20 years ago, Queen's electrifying artistry continues to shake stadiums, to galvanize arenas and to enthrall audiences worldwide.

The statistics are simply staggering: sales in the hundreds of millions of units, an unprecedented string of number one albums and top-charting singles, seven UK Ivor Novello Awards; Induction into The UK Music Hall of Fame, the US Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and The Songwriters Hall of Fame; MTV Global Icon Award; Songs enshrined in the Grammy Hall of Fame, and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, Queen has spent 1,422 weeks on the British charts ...over 27 years total, with their *Greatest Hits* according to BPI sales statistics the best-selling album in Britain UK between 1956 to 2013 (first released in 1981, close on 6 million sales).

Queen's achievement is amazing, to even see off The Beatles classic, *Sergeant Pepper*, an album that shook the world.

Four individual talents: *Brian May*, an incredible guitarist who has earned a PhD in Astrophysics; *Roger Taylor*, one of the most influential drummers of all time; *John Deacon*, a fast and facile bassist, multi-instrumentalist and a brilliant electronics engineer; and *Freddie Mercury*, certainly one of most riveting showman to ever command a stage, with one common thread, the ability to marry a fantastic sense of melody and song structure to a swaggering presentation. Queen is the only band ever in which all four members have written a No 1 single.

With their third album, *Sheer Heart Attack*, Queen arrived in the US charts, hitting the top 10 with both the single *Killer Queen* and the album. *A Night At The Opera* launched the band into the stratosphere, as the inescapable and quite magnificent, *Bohemian Rhapsody* melded rock and operatic overtones into a five minute and fifty-five second opus of 180 vocal overdubs, and many, many "Galileos.". The song is the only single ever to top the charts twice by the same artist. In the UK it ranks the third biggest selling single of all time, coming behind only the charitable singles, Elton John's *Candle In The Wind* and Band Aid's *Do They Know It Is Christmas*".

Two of the bands songs, *We Will Rock You*, and *We Are the Champions*, have become classic stadium anthems, the repertoire of millions of sports fans around the world. During the 2012 London Olympics the track was played more than 500,000 times.

As live artists Queen created anthems of triumph and celebration for an unprecedented live audience who came to witness over 700 concerts across the globe.

Queen, who embodied joyous excess laced with a sense of humor delivered such classic singles as “*Fat Bottomed Girls*”, *Bicycle Race*,” and “*Killer Queen*”.

They blazed to the top of the US charts with “*Crazy Little Thing Called Love*” and “*Another One Bites The Dust*” – the latter crossing over the pop and R & B charts and becoming the most played record of the year in 1980. It also became Queen's bestselling single, with sales of over 7 million copies.

The pinnacle of Queen’s performances came with the legendary *Live Aid Benefit* in 1985, when the band joined a superstar bill and undeniably stole the show. Their performance is year-on voted best live performance of all-time by a rock artist.

The passing of Freddie Mercury was a profound tragedy. But it speaks to his incredible spirit that the album, *Made In Heaven*, assembled after his departure sold over seven million copies worldwide. In his memory, the band orchestrated the *Freddie Mercury Tribute Concert* for AIDS Awareness, and the *Mercury Phoenix Trust* was established. To date The trust has donated more than \$15 million to The fight against AIDS around the world.

For generations of rock fans who weren’t yet born during Queen's campaign across the globe, the ageless music of Queen is a soundtrack of living history.