George Michael: The Life and Legacy of a Music Icon



George Michael - The Life: 1963-2024: The Man, The Legend, The Music by Emily Herbert

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George Michael was one of the most successful and influential pop stars of all time. He sold over 100 million records worldwide and won numerous awards, including two Grammy Awards and three Brit Awards. Michael was also known for his philanthropy and his activism on behalf of LGBT rights.

Michael was born Georgios Kyriacos Panayiotou in London, England, on June 25, 1963. He began his music career in the early 1980s as a member of the duo Wham! with Andrew Ridgeley. Wham! released a series of hit singles, including "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go," "Last Christmas," and "Careless Whisper." Michael also released a solo album, "Faith," in 1987, which was a huge commercial success and spawned the hit singles "Faith," "Father Figure," and "One More Try."

Michael continued to release successful albums and singles throughout the 1990s and 2000s. He also became known for his philanthropy and his activism on behalf of LGBT rights. He founded the George Michael Foundation in 1993, which supports a variety of charitable causes. Michael also spoke out against homophobia and discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS.

Michael died on December 25, 2016, at the age of 53. He was found dead in his home in Goring-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, England. The cause of death was later determined to be dilated cardiomyopathy with myocarditis. Michael's death shocked and saddened fans around the world. He was remembered as one of the most talented and influential pop stars of all time.

Early Life

George Michael was born Georgios Kyriacos Panayiotou on June 25, 1963, in East Finchley, London, England. His father, Kyriacos Panayiotou, was a Greek Cypriot restaurateur, and his mother, Lesley Angold, was an English dancer. Michael had two older sisters, Yioda and Melanie. He attended Kingsbury High School in Brent, London.

Michael began singing at a young age and formed his first band, The Executive, in 1979. The band played a few local gigs but never released any music. In 1981, Michael met Andrew Ridgeley at a local bus stop and the two formed the duo Wham!.

Wham!

Wham! released their debut single, "Wham Rap! (Enjoy What You Do)," in 1982. The single was a hit in the UK and reached number one on the charts. Wham! followed up with a string of hit singles, including "Young Guns (Go for It!)," "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go," and "Last Christmas." The latter became a Christmas classic and has been re-released every year since its initial release in 1984.

Wham! released two studio albums, "Fantastic" (1983) and "Make It Big" (1984). Both albums were huge commercial successes and spawned

several hit singles. The duo also starred in their own film, "Wham! The Video," in 1985.

Solo Career

Michael released his debut solo album, "Faith," in 1987. The album was a huge commercial success and spawned the hit singles "Faith," "Father Figure," and "One More Try." The album won two Grammy Awards and three Brit Awards. Michael followed up with a string of successful albums and singles throughout the 1990s and 2000s, including "Listen Without Prejudice Vol. 1" (1990),"Older" (1996),and "Patience" (2004).

Michael was also known for his philanthropy and his activism on behalf of LGBT rights. He founded the George Michael Foundation in 1993, which supports a variety of charitable causes. Michael also spoke out against homophobia and discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS.

Personal Life

Michael was in a relationship with Anselmo Feleppa from 1985 to 1991. Feleppa died of an AIDS-related illness in 1993. Michael later had a relationship with Kenny Goss from 1996 to 2009. Goss is a music executive and owner of the Goss Gallery in Dallas, Texas.

Death

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Legacy

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Michael's death in 2016 was a great loss to the music world. He was a talented singer-songwriter and a generous philanthropist. Michael's legacy will continue to inspire and entertain generations to come.



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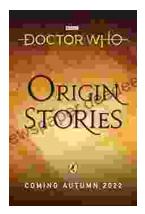
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