

# Garth Brooks

Garth Brooks is the number one-selling solo artist in American history. He has sold more than 128 million music albums, more than any other single performing singer in music history.

His 19 hit albums include, among others, *Garth Brooks*, *No Fences*, *Ropin' the Wind*, *The Hits*, *Sevens* and *Double Live*. He has also released 77 singles and has won two Grammy Awards, 17 American Music Awards — including “Artist of the ‘90s” — and the Recording Industry of America Award as “Best Selling Solo Albums Artist of the Century in the United States.

He was born Troyal Garth Brooks on February 7, 1962, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His father, Troyal Brooks, worked in the oil industry. His mother, Colleen Carroll Brooks, was a former country music singer herself. Each of his parents had been married once before

marrying each other. Brooks grew up with four half-siblings from his parents' first marriages and a sister from his parents' marriage to each other. His father played guitar and his mother had recorded for Capitol Records and performed on *Ozark Jubilee* in the 1950s.

The Brooks family moved to Yukon, Oklahoma, when Brooks was 4 years old. Growing up there, he played high school football, baseball, and track and field and listened to music of a wide variety. Upon graduation, he entered Oklahoma State University and declared a major in advertising. He attended college on a partial athletic scholarship in javelin. It was at OSU that he began playing guitar and singing and playing gigs around Stillwater. He also worked sometimes as a bouncer at local clubs.

Graduating in 1985, he moved to Nashville, but stayed less than one day, returning to Oklahoma to play gigs in his home state. He went back to Nashville in 1987, meeting and working with songwriters. Eventually, he got himself a manager, Bob Doyle, and earned attention from talent agent Joe Harris who booked him with a band called Stillwater.

In 1989, he released his first album and it reached No. 2 on the U.S. country album charts and No. 13 on the Billboard 200 charts. Not only did his style include obvious strengths in musicianship and a fine voice, but it also integrated rock elements into all his recordings. Because of



this, his recordings topped both country single and album charts and crossed over into mainstream pop. In this way, he helped expose country music to a larger audience.

His career has been stellar, breaking records for sales throughout.

In 2001, Garth Brooks announced that he was officially retiring from recording and performing. Although he had stopped touring and making new albums, he continued to sell millions of albums through an arrangement with Walmart. In 2005, he performed in the first of a limited number of performances and released two albums of songs he'd previously recorded.

In late 2009, he ended his retirement officially. In December of that year, he entered into a five-year contract with a Las Vegas, Nevada, hotel and casino to appear there on a regular basis.

According to the Recording Industry of America, Garth Brooks is the top-selling solo artist of the 20th century.



**Garth Brooks and wife Trisha Yearwood enter the Rogers County Courthouse on January 18, 2012. Brooks filed a suit against Integris Canadian Valley Hospital in Yukon over the naming of a women's center for his mother Colleen. He won the suit.**  
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