

Vince Gill

Vince Gill is an American country singer, songwriter and instrumentalist. He plays guitar, banjo, bass, mandolin, dobro, and fiddle. He has recorded more than 20 studio albums, more than 40 singles on the U.S. Billboard charts and has sold more than 26 million albums. He has received 18 Country Music Association Awards, including two Entertainer of the Year Awards (in 1993 and 1994) and five Male Vocalist Awards. Gill has also earned 27 Grammy Awards, more than any other male Country music artist. He is also known as a humanitarian, participating in hundreds of charitable events throughout his career. In 2007, Gill was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.



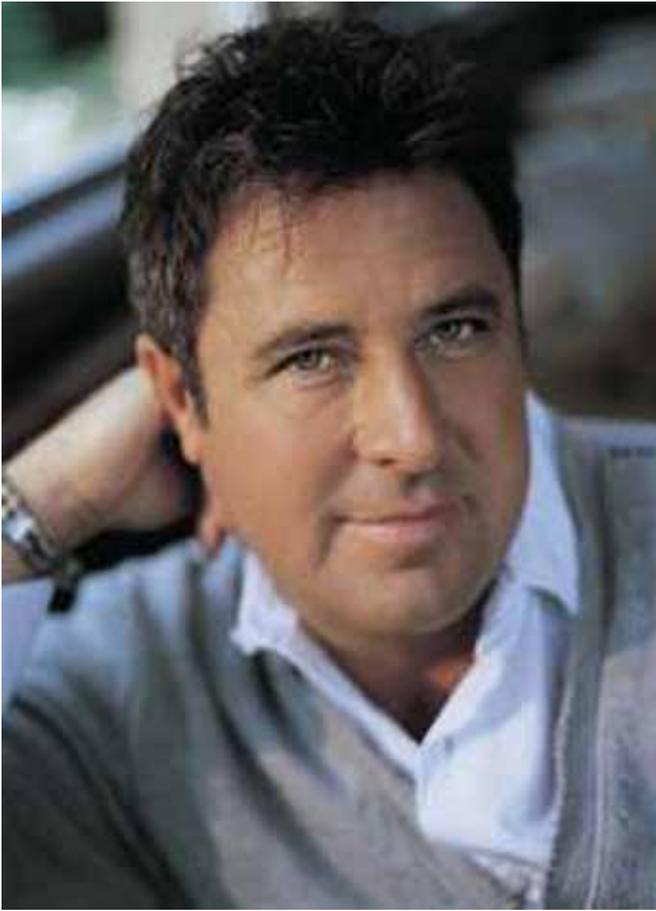
Vincent Grant “Vince” Gill was born in Norman, Oklahoma, April 12, 1957. His father, Stan Gill, was an attorney and administrative law judge who played in a country music band part time and encouraged Gill to pursue a music career. His mother, Jerene Gill, is a homemaker. He is a graduate of Northwest Classen High School in Oklahoma City and it was there that he played with a teenage band called Bluegrass Revues in the late 1970s.

While in high school, he performed with Mountain Smoke, a well-known bluegrass band. After graduation, he played in several other bluegrass bands including Ricky Skaggs’s Boone Creek and Byron Berline and Sundance. He also became a member of Rodney Crowell’s road band, The Cherry Bombs.

Nationally, he debuted with Pure Prairie League, a country rock band, in 1979.

In 1983, Gill signed with RCA Records and moved with his family to Nashville to pursue his dream of being a country music artist. His debut mini-album *Turn Me Loose* was released the following year, featuring his first charting solo single, *Victim of Life’s Circumstance*. *The Things That Matter*, his first full album was released later that year, featuring two Top 10 hits — a duet with Rosanne Cash on *If It Weren’t For Him* and a solo hit with *Oklahoma Borderline*. In 1987, he achieved his first Top 5 single, *Cinderella*, from his album *The Way Back Home*.

In addition to performing as a solo artist, Gill also worked frequent-



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ly as a studio musician, wrote songs for other artists and toured with Emmylou Harris.

In 2006, Gill released *These Days*, a groundbreaking, four-CD set featuring 43 new recordings of diverse musical stylings. Each album in the set explored a different musical mood — traditional Country; ballads; contemporary, up-tempo; and acoustic/bluegrass music. The set features a variety of guest performers including John Anderson, Guy Clark, Sheryl Crow, Phil Everly, daughter Jenny Gill, wife Amy Grant, Emmylou Harris, Diana Krall, Michael McDonald, Bonnie Raitt, Leann Rimes, Gretchen Wilson, Lee Ann Womack, Trisha Yearwood and others.

He co-hosted the CMA Awards for the first time in 1992. He continued to host “Country Music’s Biggest Night” for 12 consecutive years, ending his run in 2003. Gill not only set a record for the most times anyone has consecutively hosted a televised award show, but he also set the bar for other television awards emcees with his respect for his peers and the audience, quick ad libs, and gentle humor.

Vince Gill speaks to the audience after accepting his award from fellow Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame inductee Byron Berline, background, in 1999 during induction ceremonies in Muskogee. Photo by Jim Beckel, ©The Daily Oklahoman

