

OKLAHOMA DISCOVERY



CARRIE MARIE UNDERWOOD
AMERICAN COUNTRY SINGER,
SONGWRITER AND ACTRESS

Carrie Underwood rose to fame as the winner of the fourth season of the television program *American Idol*, in 2005. Underwood has since become a multi-platinum-selling recording artist, a winner of several Grammy Awards, Billboard Music Awards and American Music Awards, a Golden Globe Award nominee, a three-time Academy of Country Music and Country Music Association Female Vocalist winner, and a two-time ACM Entertainer of the Year. She is the first-ever female artist to win back-to-back Academy of Country Music (ACM) Awards for Entertainer of the Year in 2009 and 2010. Underwood was inducted into and became a member of the Grand Ole Opry in 2008. She was also inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame in 2009. Billboard named Underwood Country Music's reigning Queen in 2012.

Underwood was born to Stephen and Carole Underwood on March 10, 1983, in Muskogee, Oklahoma. She was raised on her parents' farm in the rural town of Checotah, Oklahoma. Her father worked in a sawmill while her mother taught elementary school. During her childhood, Underwood performed at Robbins Memorial Talent Show and sang at her local church. She later sang for local events in Checotah.

A local admirer arranged for her to go to Nashville when she was 14 to audition for Capitol Records. In 1996, Capitol Records was preparing a contract for Underwood but canceled it when company management changed. She graduated from Checotah High School in 2001 as salutatorian. She chose not to pursue singing after graduation. She attended Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, graduating *magna cum laude* in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in mass communication and an emphasis in journalism. During her college years, she was a page for Oklahoma State Representative Bobby Frame, waited tables at a pizzeria and worked at a zoo and at a veterinary clinic. For two years during the summer, she performed in Northeastern State University's Downtown Country show in Tahlequah. She also competed in numerous beauty pageants at the university and was selected as Miss NSU runner-up in 2004.

One of the most successful artists in any musical genre, Underwood has sold more than 65 million records worldwide.



Underwood is the top country artist of all-time on the RIAA's Digital Singles ranking and the highest certified country album artist to debut in the 21st century. She is the only solo country artist in the 2000s to have a No. 1 hit on the Billboard Hot 100, the only country artist to debut at No. 1 on the Hot 100, and the woman with most No. 1 hits in the history of the Billboard Country Airplay chart, with fifteen.

Forbes has declared her the most successful American Idol winner. Billboard named *Some Hearts* the No. 1 country album of the 2000s, and her as the top female artist on their 'Best Country Artists of the 2000s list. She has been inducted into the Hollywood Walk of Fame, Grand Ole Opry, Oklahoma Hall of Fame, and Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame. She has received numerous awards and accolades, including seven Grammy Awards, 11 Billboard Music Awards, 14 ACM Awards, 13 American Music Awards, nine CMA Awards, and a Guinness World Record.

CARRIE UNDERWOOD PERFORMING AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL IN LONDON. 2013