

OKLAHOMA'S QUEEN OF COUNTRY



REBA McENTIRE
COUNTRY SINGER & ACTRESS

Reba McEntire is an American country music artist and actress. Her big breakthrough moment came in 1974 when Oklahoma's U.S. Representative from District 2, Clem McSpadden, hired her to sing the National Anthem at the National Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City.

At the rodeo finals, she caught the attention of country artist Red Steagall who brought her to Nashville where she signed a contract with Mercury records in 1975. After her high school graduation, she attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University and earned a degree in elementary education in 1976. She released her first solo album in 1977. Since that time, Reba McEntire has released 26 studio albums and 35 No. 1 singles.

She was born March 28, 1955, outside Kiowa, Oklahoma, to Jacqueline and Clark McEntire. She was named for her maternal grandmother, Reba Brassfield. Both her father and grandfather were champion steer ropers, and her father was a World Champion Steer Roper in 1957, 1958, and 1961. Her mother had originally had ambitions to become a country music artist but decided instead to become a schoolteacher. However, McEntire's mother taught Reba and her siblings — Pake, Susie and Alice — to sing. On car rides home from their father's rodeo trips, the McEntire children learned their own harmonies and, eventually, formed a vocal group called the "Singing McEntires." Older sister Alice did not participate.

In the early 1990s, McEntire began acting in film, beginning with *Tremors*. Since then, she has starred in the Broadway revivals of 2001's *Annie Get Your Gun* and, in 2005, as Nellie Forbush in *South Pacific* as well as in her own television sitcom, *Reba*. For the latter, she was nominated for the *Golden Globe Award* for Best Performance by an Actress in a Comedy Series.

She is often called "The Queen of Country" because her recordings have sold 68 million in the United States and 80 million worldwide. She ranks as both the seventh best-selling female artist in all genres and the seventh best-selling country artist. She is the second-best-selling female country artist of all time, behind Shania Twain. McEntire was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2011. McEntire released her

twenty-ninth studio album *Stronger Than the Truth* on April 5, 2019. She also returned to host the 54th Academy of Country Music Awards on April 8, 2019.

It is often written that Reba McEntire has influenced and inspired the careers of numerous younger country music stars. *The Net Music Countdown* has reported, "That (McEntire's) influence has manifested itself in many ways. As a role model, she's shown others how to handle fame with grace and good humor while never backing down from her values or goals. Just as importantly, she's shown others to refuse to accept limitations on what she can do or how much she can achieve."

In 1988, McEntire founded Starstruck Entertainment, which controlled her management, booking, publishing, promotion, publicity, accounting, ticket sales, and fan club administration. The company eventually expanded into managing a horse farm, jet charter service, trucking, construction, and book publishing.

McEntire holds the record for the most Academy of Country Music Top Female Vocalist Awards (seven), and American Music Awards for Favorite Country Female Artist (twelve), and ties with Martina McBride for most Country Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year Awards (four), though McEntire does have the distinction of winning the award four times consecutively. She also is one of only two women in country music history to have attained a No.1 hit in four different decades, and the only female to achieve solo No. 1's across four decades.