

MICHAEL BOLTON

Biography/Michael Bolton

Over the course of his extraordinary career, **Michael Bolton**, singer, songwriter, and social activist, has sold over **53 million albums and singles worldwide**, and has won, among other numerous honors, **two Grammys for Best Male Vocalist and six American Music Awards**. He has earned a **Star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame**, and **sold out arenas worldwide**. The diverse Bolton has sung and recorded with **Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo and Ray Charles**, played guitar with **B.B. King** and had his music sampled by hip-hop superstar **Kanye West (featuring megastar Jay-Z)** and also on a cd/dvd by **John Legend**.

A prolific songwriter as well, Bolton has penned hit songs for a wide-ranging group of legendary artists including **Barbra Streisand, KISS, Kenny G., Cher, Peabo Bryson and Patti LaBelle**. **Joe Cocker, Marc Anthony, Greg Allman, Wynonna Judd and Kenny Rogers** have also recorded Bolton's songs. He has earned multiple honors in this field, including **BMI's Songwriter of the Year, Song of the Year, and Million-Air Awards, ASCAP's Writer and Publisher Awards**, and a **Hitmaker Award** from the **Songwriters Hall of Fame**. He's one of a very few artists to have written with the incomparable **Bob Dylan**.

The songs Bolton has chosen to record have resulted in awards and millions of sales internationally, as well as some controversy. In response, Michael cites the pride he derives from the support of his fans, as well as the gratification from the praise of artists who inspired him early on: **Otis Redding's widow, Zelma**, wrote to Bolton proclaiming his rendition of "Dock of the Bay" her "favorite version of my husband's classic," adding that **Otis** would have approved. The song's co-writer, legendary soul guitarist **Steve Cropper**, echoed her praise. **Billboard** reported that **Percy Sledge**, who originally recorded "When a Man Loves a Woman," declared, "I think Michael is one of the greatest singers I've ever heard. For him to do my song was really an honor." Bolton was chosen by **Ray Charles** to sing "Georgia" to him when Charles was inducted into the **Jazz Hall of Fame**. And, in **Q Magazine**, the great **Smokey Robinson** included Bolton's version of "Dock of the Bay" on his list of favorite soul classics – a choice **Robinson** made due to Bolton's incredibly "soulful" rendition of the hit.

Michael Bolton Charities/ Social Activism

A renowned human rights activist, 14 years ago Bolton established the **Michael Bolton Charities, Inc. (MBC)**, to provide assistance, education and shelter to children and women at risk from poverty, as well as physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Since its inception, the MBC has raised well over \$7 million while funding for local and national charities.

Bolton is also deeply involved in the struggle to raise awareness and put an end to domestic violence. Michael is **Vice Chair of the Board of Advisors of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)** and the co-chair of the 30th anniversary worldwide celebration of the violence against woman's movement. (March 2008).

In addition, Bolton executive produced the **Lifetime Network's** documentary ***Terror at Home: Domestic Violence in America***, for which he wrote and recorded the song "Tears of the Angels," which was nominated for an **Emmy Award**. Michael has testified before both houses of Congress, notably as a champion of The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and as an advocate for the safety of women and children generally. "Of all the access that my career has afforded me, this is probably the most important."

Bolton has been **Honorary Chairman of Prevent Child Abuse America** for 14 years. He serves on the boards of the **National Mentoring Partnership** and the **Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital**. Among his **philanthropic awards** are the **Lewis Hine Award** by the National Child Labor Committee, the **Martin Luther King Award** by the Congress of Racial Equality and the prestigious **Ellis Island Medal of Honor** by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations.

