

Taylor Swift





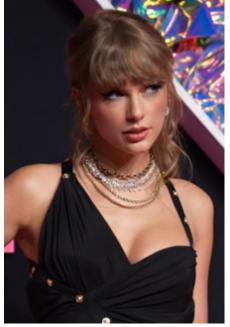
Taylor Alison Swift (/ˈteɪlər swift/; born December 13, 1989) is an American singer-songwriter. Her songwriting, artistry, and entrepreneurship have influenced the music industry and popular culture, and her life is a subject of widespread media coverage.

Swift began professional songwriting at age 14 and signed with Big Machine Records in 2005 to become a country singer. She released six studio albums under the label, four of them to country radio, starting with *Taylor Swift* (2006). Her next, *Fearless* (2008), explored country pop, and its singles "Love Story" and "You Belong with Me" catapulted her to mainstream fame. *Speak Now* (2010) infused rock influences, while *Red* (2012) experimented with electronic elements and featured Swift's first *Billboard* Hot 100 number-one song, "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together". She departed from her country image with 1989 (2014), a synth-pop album supported by the chart-topping songs "Shake It Off", "Blank Space", and "Bad Blood". Media scrutiny inspired the hip-hop-flavored *Reputation* (2017) and its number-one single "Look What You Made Me Do".

Swift signed with Republic Records in 2018. She released the eclectic pop album Lover (2019) and autobiographical documentary Miss Americana (2020), embraced indie folk and alternative rock on 2020 albums Folklore and Evermore, explored understated pop styles on Midnights (2022), and released four rerecorded albums subtitled Taylor's Version after a dispute with Big Machine. These albums spawned the number-one songs "Cruel Summer", "Cardigan", "Willow", "Anti-Hero", "All Too Well", and "Is It Over Now?". The Eras Tour, her 2023–2024 concert tour, and its accompanying concert film both became the highest-grossing ever in their respective fields. Swift directed music videos and films such as All Too Well: The Short Film (2021).

One of the world's best-selling musicians with 200 million records sold, Swift has earned 117 *Guinness World Records* and received the Global Recording Artist of the Year award three times from the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry. She is the highest-grossing female touring act, the most-streamed woman on Spotify and Apple Music, and the first billionaire with music as the main source of income. The 2023 *Time* Person of the Year, Swift has appeared on lists such as *Rolling Stone*'s 100 Greatest Songwriters of All Time, *Billboard*'s Greatest of All Time Artists, and the World's 100 Most Powerful Women by *Forbes*. Her

Taylor Swift



Swift at the 2023 MTV Video Music	
<u>Awards</u>	
Born	Taylor Alison Swift
	December 13, 1989
	West Reading,
	Pennsylvania, US
Occupations	Singer-songwriter •
	producer \cdot director \cdot
	businesswoman •
	actress
Years active	2004-present
Works	Albums · singles ·
	songs · videos ·
	performances
Relatives	Austin Swift
	(brother)
	Marjorie Finlay
	(grandmother)

Full list

Awards

accolades include 12 Grammy Awards (including three Album of the Year wins), 1 Primetime Emmy Award, 40 American Music Awards (including Artist of the Decade – 2010s), 40 Billboard Music Awards, and 23 MTV Video Music Awards. Swift is a philanthropist and an advocate for artists' rights and women's empowerment.

Life and career

Early life

Taylor Alison Swift was born on December 13, 1989, [1] in West Reading, Pennsylvania. She is named after singer-songwriter James Taylor. Her father, Scott Kingsley Swift, is a former stockbroker for Merrill Lynch and her mother, Andrea Gardner Swift (née Finlay), is a former homemaker who previously worked as a mutual fund marketing executive. Taylor has a younger brother, actor Austin Swift, and is of Scottish, German, and Italian descent. Their maternal grandmother, Marjorie Finlay, was an opera singer.

Swift spent her early years on a <u>Christmas tree farm</u> that her father had purchased from one of his clients. [11][12] She is a <u>Christian</u>. [13] She attended preschool and kindergarten at Alvernia <u>Montessori School</u>, run by Bernadine <u>Franciscan</u> sisters, [14] before transferring to the Wyndcroft School. [15] The family moved to a rented house in the suburban town of <u>Wyomissing</u>, Pennsylvania, [16] where Swift attended <u>Wyomissing</u> Area Junior/Senior High School. [17] She spent summers in <u>Stone Harbor</u>, New Jersey, until she was 14 years old, performing in a local coffee shop. [18][19]

Musical agrees	
Musical career	
Origin	Nashville,
	Tennessee, US
Genres	Pop · country · folk ·
	rock · alternative
Instruments	Vocals · guitar ·
	banjo · piano ·
	ukulele
Labels	Republic · Big
	Machine
Website	taylorswift.com (htt
	p://taylorswift.com)
Signature	
(a)	



Swift's childhood home in Wyomissing, Pennsylvania

At age nine, Swift became interested in musical theater and performed in four Berks Youth Theatre Academy productions. [20] She also traveled regularly to New York City for vocal and acting lessons. [21] Swift later shifted her focus toward country music, inspired by Shania Twain's songs, which made her "want to just run around the block four times and daydream about everything". [22] She spent weekends performing at local festivals and events. [23][24] After watching a documentary about Faith Hill, Swift felt she needed to move to Nashville, Tennessee, to pursue a career in music. [25] She traveled there with her mother at age eleven to visit record labels and submitted demo tapes of Dolly Parton and Dixie Chicks karaoke covers. [26] She was rejected, however, because "everyone in that town wanted to do what I wanted to do. So, I kept thinking to myself, I need to figure out a way to be different." [27]

When Swift was around 12 years old, computer repairman and local musician Ronnie Cremer taught her to play guitar. Cremer helped with her first efforts as a songwriter, leading her to write "Lucky You". [28] In 2003, Swift and her parents started working with New York—based talent manager Dan Dymtrow. With his help, Swift modeled for Abercrombie & Fitch as part of their "Rising Stars" campaign, had an original song included on a Maybelline compilation CD, and met with major record labels. [29] After performing original songs at an RCA Records showcase, Swift, then 13 years old, was given an artist development deal and began making frequent trips to Nashville with her mother. [30][31][32] To help Swift break into the country

music scene, her father transferred to Merrill Lynch's Nashville office when she was 14 years old, and the family relocated to Hendersonville, Tennessee. [11][33] Swift attended Hendersonville High School before transferring to Aaron Academy after two years, which better accommodated her touring schedule through homeschooling. She graduated one year early. [35][36]

2004-2008: Career beginnings and first album

In Nashville, Swift worked with experienced Music Row songwriters such as Troy Verges, Brett Beavers, Brett James, Mac McAnally, and the Warren Brothers and formed a lasting working relationship with Liz Rose. They began meeting for two-hour writing sessions every Tuesday afternoon after school. Rose called the sessions some of the easiest I've ever done. Basically, I was just her editor. She'd write about what happened in school that day. She had such a clear vision of what she was trying to say. And she'd come in with the most incredible hooks." Swift became the youngest artist signed by the Sony/ATV Tree publishing house, but left then BMG-owned RCA Records (later bought by Sony Music) at the age of 14 due to the label's lack of care and them "cut[ting] other people's stuff". She was also concerned that development deals can shelve artists [32][24] and recalled: "I genuinely felt that I was running out of time. I wanted to capture these years of my life on an album while they still represented what I was going through."



Swift opening for <u>Brad Paisley</u> in 2007. To promote her <u>first album</u>, she opened tours for other country musicians in 2007 and 2008. [43]

At an industry showcase at Nashville's <u>Bluebird Cafe</u> in 2005, Swift caught the attention of <u>Scott Borchetta</u>, a <u>DreamWorks Records</u> executive who was preparing to form an independent record label, <u>Big Machine Records</u>. She had first met Borchetta in 2004. [44] She was one of Big Machine's first signings, and her father purchased a three-percent stake in the company for an estimated \$120,000. [45][46] She began working on her <u>eponymous</u> debut album with producer <u>Nathan Chapman</u>, with whom she felt she had the right "chemistry". [24] Swift wrote three of the album's songs alone and co-wrote the remaining eight with Rose, <u>Robert Ellis Orrall</u>, Brian Maher, and <u>Angelo Petraglia</u>. [47] Taylor Swift was released on October 24, 2006. [48] <u>Country Weekly</u> critic Chris Neal deemed Swift better than previous aspiring teenage country singers because

of her "honesty, intelligence and idealism". [49] The album peaked at number five on the US <u>Billboard</u> 200, on which it spent 157 weeks—the longest stay on the chart by any release in the US in the 2000s decade. [50] Swift became the first female country music artist to write or co-write every track on a US platinum-certified debut album. [51]

Big Machine Records was still in its infancy during the June 2006 release of the <u>lead single</u>, "<u>Tim McGraw</u>", which Swift and her mother helped promote by packaging and sending copies of the CD single to country radio stations. As there was not enough furniture at the label yet, they would sit on the floor to do so. [52] She spent much of 2006 promoting *Taylor Swift* with a radio tour and television appearances; she opened for <u>Rascal Flatts</u> on select dates during their 2006 tour, [53] as a replacement for <u>Eric Church</u>. [54] Borchetta said that although record industry peers initially disapproved of his signing a 15-year-old singer-songwriter, Swift tapped into a previously unknown market—teenage girls who listen to country music. [52][11]

Following "Tim McGraw", four more singles were released throughout 2007 and 2008: "Teardrops on My Guitar", "Our Song", "Picture to Burn" and "Should've Said No". All appeared on *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs, with "Our Song" and "Should've Said No" reaching number one. With "Our Song", Swift became the youngest person to single-handedly write and sing a number-one song on the chart. [55] "Teardrops on My Guitar" reached number thirteen on the US *Billboard* Hot 100. [56] Swift also released two EPs, *The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection* in October 2007 and *Beautiful Eyes* in July 2008. [57][58] She promoted her debut album extensively as the opening act for other country musicians' tours in 2006 and 2007, including those by George Strait, [59] Brad Paisley, [60] and Tim McGraw and Faith Hill. [61]

Swift won multiple accolades for *Taylor Swift*. She was one of the recipients of the <u>Nashville Songwriters Association</u>'s Songwriter/Artist of the Year in 2007, becoming the youngest person to be honored with the title. She also won the <u>Country Music Association</u>'s Horizon Award for Best New Artist, she <u>Academy of Country Music Awards</u>' Top New Female Vocalist, and the <u>American Music Awards</u>' Favorite Country Female Artist honor. She was also nominated for <u>Best New Artist</u> at the <u>50th Annual Grammy Awards</u>. In 2008, she opened for Rascal Flatts again, and dated singer <u>Joe Jonas briefly</u>.

2008-2010: Fearless

Swift's second studio album, Fearless, was released on November 11, 2008, in North America, [72] and in March 2009 in other markets. [73] Critics lauded Swift's honest and vulnerable songwriting in contrast to other teenage singers. [74] Five singles were released in 2008–2009: "Love Story", "White Horse", "You Belong with Me", "Fifteen", and "Fearless". The first single peaked at number four on the Billboard Hot 100 and number one in Australia. $\frac{[56][75]}{}$ It was the first country song to top *Billboard*'s Pop Songs chart. [76] "You Belong with Me" was the album's highest-charting single on the Billboard Hot 100, peaking at number two, $\frac{[77]}{}$ and was the first country song to top *Billboard*'s all-genre Radio Songs chart. [78] All five singles were Hot Country Songs top-10 entries, with "Love Story" and "You Belong with Me" topping the chart. [79] Fearless became her first number-one album on the Billboard 200 and 2009's top-selling album in the US. [80] The Fearless Tour, Swift's first headlining concert tour, grossed over \$63 million. [81] *Journey to Fearless*, a documentary miniseries, aired on television and was later released on DVD and Blu-ray. [82] Swift also performed as a supporting act for Keith Urban's Escape Together World Tour in 2009. [83]



Swift at the 2009 premiere of <u>Hannah Montana: The Movie</u>. She had a cameo appearance in the film and wrote two songs for <u>its</u> soundtrack. [70][71]

In 2009, the music video for "You Belong with Me" was named <u>Best</u>

Female Video at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards. [84] Her acceptance speech was interrupted by rapper Kanye West, [85] an incident that became the subject of controversy, widespread media attention and <u>Internet memes</u>. [86] That year she won five American Music Awards, including <u>Artist of the Year</u> and Favorite Country Album. [87] *Billboard* named her 2009's <u>Artist of the Year</u>. [88] She won Video of the Year and Female Video of the Year for "Love Story" at the 2009 <u>CMT Music Awards</u>, where she made a parody video of the song with rapper <u>T-Pain</u> called "Thug Story". [89] At the <u>52nd Annual Grammy Awards</u>, *Fearless* was named <u>Album of the Year</u> and <u>Best Country Album</u>, and "White Horse" won <u>Best Country Song</u> and <u>Best Female Country Vocal Performance</u>. Swift was the youngest artist to win Album of the Year. [note 1] At the <u>2009 Country Music Association Awards</u>, Swift won Album of the Year for *Fearless* and was named Entertainer of the Year, the youngest person to win the honor. [92]

Swift featured on John Mayer's single "Half of My Heart" and Boys Like Girls' "Two Is Better Than One", the latter of which she co-wrote. [93][94] She co-wrote and recorded "Best Days of Your Life" with Kellie Pickler, [95] and wrote two songs for the *Hannah Montana: The Movie* soundtrack—"You'll Always Find Your Way Back Home" and "Crazier". [71] She contributed two songs to the *Valentine's Day* soundtrack, including the single "Today Was a Fairytale", which was her first number-one on the Canadian Hot 100 and peaked at number two on the US Hot 100. [96][97] While shooting her film debut *Valentine's Day* in October 2009, Swift dated co-star Taylor Lautner. [98] In 2009, she made her television debut as a rebellious teenager in an *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* episode. [99] She hosted and performed as the musical guest on *Saturday Night Live*; she was the first host ever to write their own opening monologue. [100][101]

2010-2014: Speak Now and Red

In August 2010, Swift released "Mine", the lead single from her third studio album, *Speak Now*. It entered the Hot 100 at number three. Swift wrote the album alone and co-produced every track. It was released on October 25, 2010, opening atop the *Billboard* 200 with over one million copies sold. It became the fastest-selling digital album by a female artist, with 278,000 downloads in a week. Critics appreciated Swift's grown-up perspectives; Rob Sheffield of *Rolling Stone* wrote, in a mere four years, the 20-year-old Nashville firecracker has put her name on three dozen or so of the smartest songs released by anyone in pop, rock or country. Back to December, "Mean, "The Story of Us, "Sparks Fly," and "Ours" became subsequent singles, with the latter two reaching number one on the Hot Country Songs and the first two peaking in the top ten in Canada. She dated actor Jake Gyllenhaal in 2010.



Swift performing at the Speak Now World Tour in 2012

At the 54th Annual Grammy Awards in 2012, Swift won Best Country
Song and Best Country Solo Performance for "Mean", which she performed during the ceremony. [110]
Swift won other awards for *Speak Now*, including Songwriter/Artist of the Year by the Nashville Songwriters Association (2010 and 2011), [111][112] Woman of the Year by *Billboard* (2011), [113] and Entertainer of the Year by the Academy of Country Music (2011 and 2012)[114] and the Country Music Association in 2011. [115] At the American Music Awards of 2011, Swift won Artist of the Year and Favorite Country Album. [116] *Rolling Stone* named *Speak Now* amongst its "50 Best Female Albums of All Time" (2012), writing: "She might get played on the country station, but she's one of the few genuine rock stars we've got these days, with a flawless ear for what makes a song click." [117]

The Speak Now World Tour ran from February 2011 to March 2012 and grossed over \$123 million, followed up by the live album, Speak Now World Tour: Live. [119] She contributed two original songs to The Hunger Games soundtrack album: "Safe & Sound", co-written and recorded with the Civil Wars and T-Bone Burnett, and "Eyes Open". "Safe & Sound" won the Grammy Award for Best Song Written for Visual Media and was nominated for the Golden Globe Award for Best Original Song. [120][121] Swift featured on B.o.B's single "Both of Us", released in May 2012. [122] She dated Conor Kennedy that year. [123]

In August 2012, Swift released "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together", the lead single from her fourth studio album, *Red*. It became her first number one in the US and New Zealand, [124][125] and became the fastest-selling single in digital history. Other singles from the album were "Begin Again", "I Knew You Were Trouble", "22", "Everything Has Changed", "The Last Time", and "Red". "I Knew You Were



Swift on the Red Tour (2013)

Trouble" reached the top five on charts in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, New Zealand, the UK and the US. [127] "Begin Again", "22", and "Red" reached the top 20 in the US. [56] On *Red*, released on October 22, 2012, [128] Swift worked with Chapman and Rose, as well as the new producers Max Martin and Shellback. [129] It incorporated many pop and rock styles such as heartland rock, dubstep and dance-pop. [130] Randall Roberts of Los Angeles Times said Swift "strives for something much more grand and accomplished" with *Red*.[131] It opened at number one on the Billboard 200 with 1.21 million sales, making Swift the first female to have two million-selling first-weeks. [132][133] Red was Swift's first number-one album in the UK. [134] It earned several accolades, including four nominations at the 56th Annual Grammy Awards (2014).[135] Swift received American Music Awards for Best Female Country Artist in 2012, Artist of the Year in 2013, [136][137] and the Nashville Songwriters Association's Songwriter/Artist Award for the fifth and sixth consecutive vears. [138] The Red Tour ran from March 2013 to June 2014 and grossed

over \$150 million, becoming the highest-grossing country tour ever. Swift was honored with the Pinnacle Award, making her the second recipient of the accolade after Garth Brooks. During this time, she briefly dated English singer Harry Styles.

In 2013, Swift recorded "Sweeter than Fiction", a song she wrote and produced with Jack Antonoff for the One Chance soundtrack. The song received a Best Original Song nomination at the 71st Golden Globe Awards. She provided guest vocals for Tim McGraw's song "Highway Don't Care", also featuring Keith Urban. Swift performed "As Tears Go By" with the Rolling Stones in Chicago, Illinois, as part of the band's 50 & Counting tour, and joined Florida Georgia Line at their set at the 2013 Country Radio Seminar to sing "Cruise". Swift voiced Audrey in the animated film The Lorax (2012), made a cameo in the sitcom New Girl (2013), and had a supporting role in the dystopian film The Giver (2014).

2014-2018: 1989 and Reputation

In March 2014, Swift began living in New York City. [note 2] She hired Tree Paine as her publicist, [151] and worked on her fifth studio album, 1989, with producers Jack Antonoff, Max Martin, Shellback, Imogen Heap, Ryan Tedder, and Ali Payami. [152] She promoted the album extensively, including inviting fans to secret album-listening sessions. [153] 1989 was released on October 27, 2014, and opened atop the Billboard 200 with 1.28 million copies sold. [154] Its singles "Shake It Off", "Blank Space" and "Bad Blood" reached number one in Australia, Canada and the US, the first two making Swift the first woman to replace herself at the Hot 100 top spot; [155] other singles include "Style", "Wildest Dreams", "Out of the Woods" and "New Romantics". [156] The 1989 World Tour (2015) was the highest-grossing tour of the year with \$250 million in total revenue. [157]

Prior to *1989*'s release, Swift stressed the importance of albums to artists and fans. In November 2014, she removed her entire catalog from Spotify, arguing that the streaming company's ad-supported, free service undermined the premium service, which provides higher royalties for



Swift at the 1989 World Tour, the highest-grossing tour of 2015.

songwriters. [159] In a June 2015 open letter, Swift criticized Apple Music for not offering royalties to artists

during the streaming service's free three-month trial period and stated that she would pull *1989* from the catalog. [160] The following day, Apple Inc. announced that it would pay artists during the free trial period, [161] and Swift agreed to let *1989* on the streaming service. [162] She then returned her entire catalog plus *1989* to Spotify, Amazon Music and Google Play and other digital streaming platforms in June 2017. [163] Swift was named *Billboard*'s Woman of the Year in 2014, becoming the first artist to win the award twice. [164] At the 2014 American Music Awards, Swift received the inaugural Dick Clark Award for Excellence. [165] On her 25th birthday in 2014, the Grammy Museum at L.A. Live opened an exhibit in her honor in Los Angeles that ran until October 4, 2015, and broke museum attendance records. [166][167] In 2015, Swift won the Brit Award for International Female Solo Artist. [168] The video for "Bad Blood" won Video of the Year and Best Collaboration at the 2015 MTV Video Music Awards. [169] At the 58th Grammy Awards (2016), *1989* won Album of the Year and Best Pop Vocal Album, making Swift the first woman and fifth act overall to win Album of the Year twice. [170]



Swift on her Reputation
Stadium Tour (2018), the
highest-grossing North
American tour ever

Swift dated Scottish DJ <u>Calvin Harris</u> from March 2015 to June 2016. [171] They co-wrote the song "This Is What You Came For", featuring vocals from Barbadian singer <u>Rihanna</u>; Swift was initially credited under the pseudonym Nils Sjöberg. [172] In April 2016, Swift criticized the lyrics of West's single "Famous", in which he sings "I made that bitch famous" in reference to his interruption of her acceptance speech at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards. West claimed he had received her approval for the line, and his then-wife <u>Kim Kardashian</u> released video clips of Swift and West discussing the single amicably over the phone; a full recording of the call leaked in 2020 established that West did not disclose that he would call her a bitch. [173][174]

After briefly dating English actor <u>Tom Hiddleston</u>, [175] Swift entered a six-year relationship with English actor <u>Joe Alwyn</u> in September 2016. [176][177][178] She wrote the song "Better Man" for country band Little Big Town, [note 3] which earned her the Song of the Year award at the 51st CMA Awards. [180] Swift and English singer <u>Zayn Malik</u> released the joint single "I Don't Wanna Live Forever" for *Fifty Shades Darker: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack* (2017). The song reached number two

in the US. [181] In August 2017, Swift successfully countersued David Mueller, a former <u>radio jockey</u> for <u>KYGO-FM</u>, who sued her for damages from his loss of employment. Four years earlier, she informed Mueller's bosses that he had sexually assaulted her by groping her at an event. [182]

After a one-year hiatus from the spotlight, Swift cleared her social media accounts and released "Look What You Made Me Do" as the lead single from her sixth album, *Reputation*. [183][184] The single was Swift's first UK number-one single. It topped charts in Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, and the US. [186] *Reputation*, released on November 10, 2017, [187] incorporated heavy electropop, along with hip hop, R&B, and EDM sounds. Reviews praised Swift's mature artistry, but some denounced the themes of fame and gossip. The album opened atop the *Billboard* 200 with 1.21 million sales, making Swift the first act to have four albums sell one million copies in a week in the US. [190] The album topped the charts in the UK, Australia, and Canada, and sold over 4.5 million copies worldwide as of 2018. It spawned three more singles: "...Ready for It?", [193] "End Game" (featuring Ed Sheeran and rapper Future) and "Delicate". Reputation was nominated for Best Pop Vocal Album at the 61st Annual Grammy Awards in 2019. At the American Music Awards of 2018, Swift won four awards, including Artist of the Year and Favorite Pop/Rock Female Artist. Swift had gamered collected 23 AMAs in her career, becoming the most awarded female musician in the show, surpassing Whitney Houston. In April 2018, Swift featured on country duo Sugarland's "Babe". In April 2018, She embarked on her Reputation Stadium Tour

in 2018. $^{[197]}$ It broke many records, such as the highest-grossing North American concert tour in history with \$345.7 million revenue worldwide. $^{[198]}$ It was followed up with an accompanying concert film on Netflix. $^{[199]}$

2018-2020: Lover, Folklore, and Evermore

Reputation was Swift's last album under Big Machine. In November 2018, she signed a new deal with the Universal Music Group; her subsequent releases were promoted by Republic Records. Swift said the contract included a provision for her to maintain ownership of her masters. In addition, in the event that Universal sold any part of its stake in Spotify, it agreed to distribute a non-recoupable portion of the proceeds among its artists. [200] *Vox* called it a huge commitment from Universal, which was "far from assured" until Swift intervened. [201]

Swift released her seventh studio album, *Lover*, on August 23, 2019. [202] Besides Jack Antonoff, Swift worked with new producers Louis Bell, Frank Dukes, and Joel Little. [203] *Lover* made Swift the first female artist to have a sixth consecutive album sell more than 500,000 copies in one week in the $US.^{\underline{[204]}}$ Critics commended the album's free-spirited mood and emotional intimacy. [205][206] The lead single, "Me!", peaked at number two on the Hot 100. [207] Other singles from *Lover* were the US top 10 singles "You Need to Calm Down" and "Lover", top 40 single "The Man", [56] and "Cruel Summer", which became a resurgent success in 2023 and reached number one on the Hot 100. [208] *Lover* was the world's best-selling album by a solo artist of 2019, selling 3.2 million copies. [209] and along with its singles earned nominations at the 62nd Annual Grammy Awards in 2020.[210] At the 2019 MTV Video Music Awards, "Me!" won Best Visual Effects, and "You Need to Calm Down" won Video of the Year and Video for Good. Swift was the first female and second artist overall to win Video of the Year for a video that they directed. [211]



Swift at the American Music Awards of 2019, where she was named Artist of the Decade

While promoting *Lover*, Swift became embroiled in a public dispute with talent manager Scooter Braun and Big Machine over the purchase of the

masters of her back catalog. [212][213] Swift said she had been trying to buy the masters, but Big Machine would only allow her to do so if she exchanged one new album for each older one under a new contract, which she refused to sign. [212][214] Swift began re-recording her back catalog in November 2020. [215] Besides music, she played Bombalurina in the film adaptation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical Cats (2019), for which she co-wrote and recorded the Golden Globe-nominated original song "Beautiful Ghosts". [216][217] Critics panned the film but praised Swift's performance. [218] The documentary Miss Americana, which chronicled parts of Swift's life and career, premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival and was released on Netflix that January. [219][220] Swift signed a global publishing deal with Universal Music Publishing Group in February 2020 after her 16-year-old contract with Sony/ATV expired. [221]

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Swift released two surprise albums: *Folklore* on July 24, and *Evermore* on December 11, 2020. [222][223] Both explore indie folk and alternative rock with a more muted production compared to her previous upbeat pop songs. [224][225] Swift wrote and recorded the albums with Jack Antonoff, and Aaron Dessner from The National, as producers. [226] Alwyn co-wrote and co-produced select songs under the pseudonym William Bowery. [227] The albums garnered widespread critical acclaim. *The Guardian* and *Vox* opined that *Folklore* and *Evermore* emphasized Swift's work ethic and increased her artistic credibility. [228][229] Three singles supported each of the albums, catering the US mainstream radio, country radio, and triple A radio. The singles, in that order, were "Cardigan", "Betty", and "Exile" from

Folklore, and "Willow", "No Body, No Crime", and "Coney Island" from Evermore. Swift became the first artist to debut a US number-one album and a number-one song at the same time with Folklore's "Cardigan" and Evermore's "Willow". Folklore was 2020's best-selling album in the US with 1.2 million copies. It won Album of the Year at the 63rd Annual Grammy Awards, making Swift the first woman to win the award three times. At the 2020 American Music Awards, she won three awards, including Artist of the Year for a record third consecutive time. According to Billboard, she was 2020's highest-paid musician in the US, and the world's highest-paid solo musician.

2021–present: Re-recordings, *Midnight*s, and the Eras Tour



Swift on the Eras Tour in 2023

Following the masters dispute, Swift released re-recordings of her first six studio albums, beginning with *Fearless (Taylor's Version)* and *Red (Taylor's Version)* in April and November 2021, respectively. Both releases peaked atop the *Billboard* 200, [236] becoming the first ever re-recorded albums to do so. [237] *Fearless (Taylor's Version)* was preceded by "Love Story (Taylor's Version)", which made her the second artist after Dolly Parton to have both the original and re-recorded versions of a song reach number one on the Hot Country Songs chart. [238] *Red (Taylor's Version)* was supported by "All Too Well (10 Minute Version)", which became the longest song in history to top the Hot 100. [239] The song was accompanied by a short film, which won a Grammy Award for Best Music Video [240] and Swift's record third MTV Video Music Award for Video of the Year. [241]

Swift's tenth studio album, $\underline{Midnights}$, was released on October 21, 2022. Characterized by an understated electropop and synth-

pop^[245] sound, the album was dubbed by *Rolling Stone* critics as an instant classic. [246][247] The album was her fifth to open atop the *Billboard* 200 with first-week sales of over one million copies and broke various sales and streaming records, [248] including the most single-day streams and most single-week streams on Spotify. [249] Its tracks, led by single "Anti-Hero", monopolized the top 10 of the Hot 100, making Swift the first artist to do so. [250] Two other singles, "Lavender Haze" and "Karma", peaked at number two on the Hot 100. [251] Swift won nine awards at the 2023 MTV Video Music Awards, including Video of the Year ("Anti-Hero") for a record fourth time, [252] and received six nominations at the 66th Annual Grammy Awards, including a record seventh for Song of the Year ("Anti-Hero"). [127]

In March 2023, Swift embarked on the Eras Tour, a retrospective tour covering all her 10 studio albums. Media outlets extensively covered the tour's cultural and economic impact, [253] and its US leg broke the record for the most tickets sold in a day. Ticketmaster received public and political criticisms for mishandling the tour's ticket sales. The Eras Tour became the highest-grossing tour in history, collecting over \$1 billion; its concert film, released to theaters worldwide on October 13, 2023, became the highest-grossing concert film ever, with over \$250 million earned worldwide, and was nominated for the Golden Globe Award for Cinematic and Box Office Achievement. [255][256][257]

Swift continued releasing her re-recorded albums during the Eras Tour. *Speak Now (Taylor's Version)*, released on July 7, 2023, made Swift the woman with the most number-one albums (12) in *Billboard* 200 history, surpassing Barbra Streisand. [258] 1989 (Taylor's Version), released on October 27, 2023, became Swift's record-extending sixth album to sell one million copies in a single week in the US. [259] and the best-selling album of 2023. It surpassed *Midnights* for her career's largest album sales week. [259] Its single "Is It Over Now?" debuted atop the *Billboard* Hot 100, replacing her own "Cruel Summer". [260] Swift's music releases, touring, and related activities culminated in an unprecedented height of popularity post-pandemic. [261] Music Business Worldwide remarked that she entered a "new stratosphere of global career

success" in $2023.^{[262]}$ Swift was the most streamed artist of 2023 on Spotify, [263] Apple Music, and Amazon Music; the first act to place number one on the year-end *Billboard* top artists list in three different decades (2009, 2015 and 2023); and the first living artist to simultaneously chart five albums in the top 10 of the *Billboard* 200. She was the best-selling albums artist of 2023 in the US in and across physical and digital formats. [268]

Beyond her albums, Swift featured on five songs from 2021 to 2023: "Renegade" and "Birch" by Big Red Machine, [269] a remix of "Gasoline" by Haim, [270] "The Joker and the Queen" by Ed Sheeran, [271] and "The Alcott" by the National. For the soundtrack of the 2022 film Where the Crawdads Sing, she recorded "Carolina", which received nominations for Best Original Song at the Golden Globes and Best Song Written for Visual Media at the Grammy Awards. Outside of music, Swift had a supporting role in the 2022 period comedy film Amsterdam and has signed to direct an upcoming feature film for Searchlight Pictures. She began dating American football player Travis Kelce in 2023.

Artistry

Influences

One of Swift's earliest memories of music is listening to her maternal grandmother, Marjorie Finlay, sing in church. As a child, she enjoyed Disney film soundtracks: "My parents noticed that, once I had run out of words, I would just make up my own." Swift said she owes her confidence and "fascination with writing and storytelling" to her mother, who helped her prepare for class presentations as a child. [278][279]

Swift was drawn to the storytelling aspect of country music, [280] introduced to the genre by female country artists of the 1990s: Shania Twain, Faith Hill, and the Dixie Chicks. [281][282] Twain, both as a songwriter and performer, was her biggest musical influence. [283] Hill was Swift's childhood role model, as she would often imitate her. [284] She admired the Chicks' defiant attitude and ability to play their own instruments, [285] and was also influenced by older country stars like Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn, Tammy Wynette, and Dolly Parton, [23] the last of whom she believes is exemplary to female songwriters. [113] As a songwriter, Swift was influenced by Joni Mitchell's emotional and autobiographical lyrics, highlighting Mitchell's album Blue as a favorite "because it explores somebody's soul so deeply". [286] She also spoke of influence from 1990s songwriters such as Melissa Etheridge, Sarah McLachlan, and Alanis Morissette, [287][288] and alt-country artists like Patty Griffin [289] and Lori McKenna. [290]

Various pop and rock artists have also influenced Swift. She lists Paul McCartney, Bruce Springsteen, Emmylou Harris, and Kris Kristofferson as her career role models. [11][291] 1989 was influenced by some of her favorite 1980s pop acts, including Peter Gabriel, Annie Lennox, Phil Collins, and Madonna. [292][293] She also cited Keith Urban's musical style and Fall Out Boy's lyrics as major influences. [294][295]

Genres

Swift is known for venturing into various music genres and undergoing artistic reinventions, [297][275] having been described as a "music chameleon". [298][299] She self-identified as a country musician until 2012, when she released her fourth studio album, *Red*. [300] Her albums were promoted to country radio, but music critics noted wide-ranging styles of pop and rock. [301][302] After 2010,

"If there's one thing that Swift has proven throughout her career, it's that she refuses to be put in a box. Her everevolving sound took her from country darling to pop phenom to folk's newest raconteur."

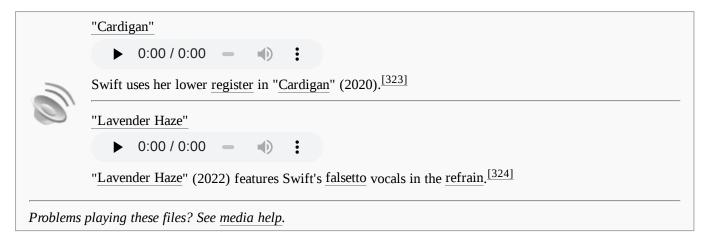
they observed that Swift's melodies are rooted in pop music, and the country music elements are limited to instruments such as banjo, <u>mandolin</u>, and <u>fiddle</u>, and her slight twang; [303][304] some commented that her country

—<u>The Recording Academy</u>, 2021^[296]

music identity was an indicator of her narrative songwriting rather than musical style. [305][306] Although the Nashville music industry was receptive of Swift's status as a country musician, critics accused her of abandoning her roots in favor of crossover success in the mainstream pop market. [307][308] *Red*'s eclectic pop, rock, and electronic styles intensified the critical debate, to which Swift responded, "I leave the genre labeling to other people." [309]

Music journalist <u>Jody Rosen</u> commented that by originating her musical career in Nashville, Swift made a "bait-and-switch maneuver, planting roots in loamy country soil, then pivoting to pop". She abandoned her country music identity in 2014 with the release of her synth-pop fifth studio album, *1989*. Swift described it as her first "documented, official pop album". Her subsequent albums *Reputation* (2017) and *Lover* (2019) have an upbeat pop production; the former incorporates hip hop, trap, and EDM elements. Midnights (2022), on the other hand, is distinguished by a more experimental, "subdued and amorphous pop sound". Although reviews of Swift's pop albums were generally positive, some critics lamented that the pop music production indicated Swift's pursuit of mainstream success, eroding her authenticity as a songwriter nurtured by her country music background—a criticism that has been retrospectively described as rockist. Musicologist Nate Sloan remarked that Swift's pop music transition was rather motivated by her need to expand her artistry. Swift eschewed mainstream pop in favor of alternative, folk and indie rock styles with her 2020 studio albums *Folklore* and Evermore. Clash Said her career "has always been one of transcendence and covert boundary-pushing", reaching a point at which "Taylor Swift is just Taylor Swift", not defined by any genre.

Voice



Swift possesses a <u>mezzo-soprano</u> <u>vocal range</u>, [325] and a generally soft but versatile <u>timbre</u>. [326][327] As a country singer, her vocals were criticized by some as weak and strained compared to those of her contemporaries. [328] Swift admitted her vocal ability often concerned her in her early career and has worked hard to improve. [329] Reviews of her vocals remained mixed after she transitioned to pop music with 1989; critics complained that she lacked proper technique but appreciated her usage of her voice to communicate her feelings to the audience, prioritizing "intimacy over power and nuance". [330] They also praised her for refraining from correcting her pitch with <u>Auto-Tune</u>. [331]

The *Los Angeles Times* remarked that Swift's defining vocal feature is her attention to detail to convey an exact feeling—"the line that slides down like a contented sigh or up like a raised eyebrow". [332] With *Reputation*, critics noted she was "learning how to use her voice as a percussion instrument of its

own", [333] swapping her "signature" expressive vocals for "cool, conversational, detached" <u>cadences</u> and rhythms similar to hip hop and R&B styles. [334][335][336] <u>Alternative Press</u> stated that her "evocative" vocal stylings are more reminiscent of pop-punk and emo genres. [337]

Reviews of Swift's later albums and performances were more appreciative of her vocals, finding them less nasal, richer, more resonant, and more powerful. [304][338][339] With Folklore and Evermore, Swift received praise for her sharp and agile yet translucent and controlled voice. [340][341][342] Pitchfork described it as "versatile and expressive". [343] With her 2021 re-recorded albums, critics began to praise the mature, deeper and "fuller" tone of her voice. [344][345][346] An *i* review said Swift's voice is "leagues better now" with her newfound vocal furniture. [347] The Guardian highlighted "yo-yoing vocal yelps" and passionate climaxes as the trademarks of Swift's voice, [348] and that her country twang faded away. [349] Midnights received acclaim for Swift's nuanced vocal delivery. [350] She ranked 102nd on the 2023 Rolling Stone list of the 200 Greatest Singers of All Time. [327] In a review of the Eras Tour, The New Yorker critic Amanda Petrusich praised the clarity and tone of Swift's live vocals. [351] Musicologist Alyssa Barna said that Swift's timbre is "breathy and bright" in her upper register and "full and dark" in the lower. [225]

Songwriting

Swift has been referred to as one of the greatest songwriters ever by several publications. [352][353][354] English-language scholars like Jonathan Bate and Stephanie Burt have noted that her literary and melodic sensibility and verbal writing style are rare amongst her peers. [355][356] Swift's bridges are often underscored as one of the best aspects of her songs, earning her the title "Queen of Bridges" from Time. [359] Mojo described her as "a sharp narrator with a gift for the extended metaphor". [360]

In *The New Yorker* in 2011, Swift said she identifies as a songwriter first: "I write songs, and my voice is just a way to get those lyrics across". Her personal experiences were a common inspiration for her early songs, which helped her navigate life. Her "diaristic" technique began with identifying an emotion, followed by a corresponding melody. On her first three studio albums, love, heartbreak, and insecurities, from an adolescent perspective, were dominant themes. Sets She delved into the tumult of toxic relationships on Red, and embraced nostalgia and post-romance positivity on 1989. Reputation was inspired by the downsides of Swift's fame, and Lover detailed her realization of the "full spectrum of love". Other themes in Swift's music include family dynamics, friendship, 19890 alienation, self-awareness, and tackling vitriol, especially sexism.

Her confessional lyrics received positive reviews from critics, [373][11][374] who highlighted their vivid details and emotional engagement, which they found uncommon in pop music. [375][376][377] Critics also praised her melodic compositions; *Rolling Stone* described Swift as "a songwriting savant with an intuitive gift for verse-chorus-bridge architecture". [378][379] NPR dubbed Swift "a master of the vernacular in her lyrics", [335] remarking that her songs offer emotional engagement because "the wit and clarity of her arrangements turn them from standard fare to heartfelt disclosures". [379] Despite the positive reception, *The New Yorker* stated she was generally portrayed "more as a skilled technician than as a <u>Dylanesque</u> visionary". [11] Tabloid media often speculated and linked the subjects of her songs with her ex-lovers, a practice reviewers and Swift herself criticized as sexist. [380][381][382] Aside from clues in album <u>liner notes</u>, Swift avoided talking about the subjects of her songs.

On her 2020 albums *Folklore* and *Evermore*, Swift was inspired by <u>escapism</u> and <u>romanticism</u> to explore fictional narratives. [384] Without referencing her personal life, she imposed emotions onto imagined characters and story arcs, which liberated her from tabloid attention and suggested new paths for her artistry. [363] Swift explained that she welcomed the new songwriting direction after she stopped worrying

about commercial success.^[384] According to *Spin*, she explored complex emotions with "precision and devastation" on *Evermore*.^[385] *Consequence* stated her 2020 albums convinced skeptics of her songwriting prowess, noting her transformation from "teenage wunderkind to a confident and careful adult".^[358]

Swift divides her writing into three types: "quill lyrics", referring to songs rooted in antiquated poeticism; "fountain pen lyrics", based on modern and vivid storylines; and "glitter gel pen lyrics", which are lively and frivolous. [386] Critics note the fifth track of every Swift album as the most "emotionally vulnerable" song of the album. Awarding her with the Songwriter Icon Award in 2021, the National Music Publishers' Association remarked that "no one is more influential when it comes to writing music today" than Swift. The Week deemed her the foremost female songwriter of modern times, and the Nashville Songwriters Association International named her Songwriter-Artist of the Decade in 2022. [250] Swift has also published two original poems: "Why She Disappeared" and "If You're Anything Like Me". [390]

Performances

Journalists have described Swift as one of the all-time great live performers. Often praised for her showmanship and stage presence, $\frac{[391][392][393][394][395]}{[398]}$ Swift is known for her ability to command large audiences, such as in a $\frac{[396][397][398]}{[396][397][398]}$ without having to rely fully on dance like her contemporaries do. $\frac{[399]}{[398]}$ According to \underline{V} magazine's Greg Krelenstein, she possesses "a rare gift of turning a stadium spectacle into an intimate setting", irrespective of whether she is "plucking a guitar or leading an army of dancers".

In a 2008 review of Swift's early performances, <u>Sasha Frere-Jones</u> of *The New Yorker* called Swift a "preternaturally skilled" entertainer with a vibrant stage presence, adding "she returned the crowd's energy with the professionalism she has shown since the age of fourteen." [401] In 2023, Adrian Horton of *The Guardian* noted her "seemingly endless stamina" on the Eras Tour, [402] and i critic Ilana Kaplan called her showmanship "unparalleled".

Critics have highlighted Swift's versatility as an entertainer, praising her ability to switch onstage <u>personas</u> and performance styles depending on the varying themes and aesthetics of her



Swift performing on the Reputation Stadium Tour in Seattle in May 2018

albums. [404][405] Her concert productions have been characterized by elaborate Broadway theatricality and high technology, [406] and her performances frequently incorporate a live band, with whom she has played and toured since 2007. [407] Swift also often accompanies herself with musical instruments such as electric guitar; [408] acoustic guitar; piano; [409] and sometimes twelve-string guitar, [410][411] banjo, [412] or ukulele. [413] Interacting frequently with the audience, her solo acoustic performances are considered intimate and emotionally resonant, complementing her story-based lyrics and fan connection. [351][414] Lydia Burgham of *The Spinoff* opined that this intimacy remains "integral to her singer-songwriter origins". [415][409] Chris Willman of *Variety* called Swift "pop's most approachable superstar", [416] and the 21st century's most popular performer.

Video and film

Swift emphasizes visuals as a key creative component of her music making process. [418] She has collaborated with different directors to produce her music videos, and over time she has become more involved with writing and directing. She developed the concept and treatment for "Mean" in 2011 [419] and co-directed the music video for "Mine" with Roman White the year before. [420] In an interview, White said that Swift "was keenly involved in writing the treatment, casting and wardrobe. And she stayed for both the 15-hour shooting days, even when she wasn't in the scenes."

From 2014 to 2018, Swift collaborated with director <u>Joseph Kahn</u> on eight music videos—four each from her albums *1989* and *Reputation*. Kahn has praised Swift's involvement in the craft. She worked with <u>American Express</u> for the "Blank Space" music video (which Kahn directed), and served as an executive producer for the interactive app *AMEX Unstaged: Taylor Swift Experience*, for which she won a <u>Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Interactive Program</u> in 2015. Swift produced the music video for "Bad Blood" and won a Grammy Award for Best Music Video in 2016.

Her production company, Taylor Swift Productions, is credited with producing all of her visual media starting with the 2018 concert documentary *Reputation Stadium Tour*. She continued to co-direct music videos for the *Lover* singles "Me!" with Dave Meyers, and "You Need to Calm Down" (also serving as a co-executive producer) and "Lover" with Drew Kirsch, but first ventured into sole direction with the video for "The Man" (which won her the MTV Video Music Award for Best Direction). After *Folklore: The Long Pond Studio Sessions*, Swift debuted as a filmmaker with *All Too Well: The Short Film*, which made her the first artist to win the Grammy Award for Best Music Video as a sole director. Swift has cited Chloé Zhao, Greta Gerwig, Nora Ephron, Guillermo del Toro, John Cassavetes, and Noah Baumbach as her filmmaking influences.

Achievements



In 2009, Swift became the first country singer in history to win an MTV Video Music Award.

Swift's discography is a "critically hailed songbook", as per *Time*'s <u>Sam Lansky</u>. [429] She has won 12 <u>Grammy Awards</u> (including three for Album of the Year—tying for the <u>most</u> by an artist), [430] an <u>Emmy Award</u>, [431] 40 American Music Awards (the most won by an artist), [432] 39 <u>Billboard Music Awards</u> (the most won by an artist—tying with <u>Drake</u>), [433] 117 <u>Guinness World Records</u>, [434] 23 <u>MTV Video Music Awards</u> (including four Video of the Year wins—the most by an act), [252] 12 <u>Country Music Association Awards</u> (including the Pinnacle Award), [435] eight Academy of Country Music Awards, [436] and two <u>Brit Awards</u>. As a songwriter, she has been honored by the Nashville Songwriters Association, [62][437] the <u>Songwriters Hall of Fame</u>, and the National Music Publishers' Association and was the youngest person on *Rolling Stone*'s list of the <u>100 Greatest Songwriters of All Time</u> in 2015. [438][439] At the 64th <u>BMI Awards</u> in 2016, Swift was the first woman to be honored with an award named after its recipient.

Commercially, from available data, Swift has amassed over 50 million album sales and 150 million single sales as of 2019, [441][442][443] and 114 million units globally, including 78 billion streams as of 2021. [444][445]

The International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) ranked her as the Global Recording Artist of the Year for a record three times (2014, 2019 and 2022). [446] Swift has the most number-one albums in the United Kingdom and Ireland for a female artist this millennium, earned the highest income for an artist on Chinese digital music platforms (RMB 159,000,000 as of 2021), and is the first artist to replace themselves at the top spot and occupy the entire top five of the Australian albums chart.

Swift remains the world's highest-grossing female touring act ever, with cumulative ticket sales at \$1.96 billion as of November 2023 according to Pollstar. The Eras Tour is the highest-grossing tour of all time as of December 2023, and the first to surpass \$1 billion in revenue. Beginning with Fearless, each of her studio albums have opened with over one million global units. Swift is the most streamed female act on Spotify and Apple Music. On Spotify, she is the only artist to have received more than 200 and 250 million streams in one day (260 million on October 27, 2023), and the only female act to reach 100 million monthly listeners. The most entries and the most simultaneous entries for an artist on the Pollstar Global 200, with 143 and 31 songs, respectively, are among her feats.

In the US, Swift has sold over 37.3 million albums as of 2019, [443] when *Billboard* placed her eighth on its Greatest of All Time Artists Chart. [461] Eleven of her songs have topped the *Billboard* Hot 100. [260] She is the longest-reigning act of the *Billboard* Artist 100 (91 weeks); [462] the soloist with the most cumulative weeks atop the *Billboard* 200 (68); [463] the woman with the most *Billboard* 200 number-ones (13), [239] Hot 100 entries (232), [239][156] top-ten songs (49), [260] and weeks atop the Top Country Albums chart (101); [464] and the act with the most number-one songs on Pop Airplay (12) and Digital Songs (28). [465][466] Swift is the first woman to simultaneously chart five albums in the top 10 and eleven albums on the entire *Billboard* 200; [467][468] and the first act to occupy the top four spots on the Top Album Sales chart. [469] She is the second highest-certified female digital singles artist (and fifth overall) in the US, with 137.5 million total units certified by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), [470] and the first woman to have both an album (*Fearless*) and a song ("Shake It Off") certified Diamond. [471] Swift is the only artist in Luminate Data history to have six albums sell over a million copies in a week.

Swift has appeared in various power listings. *Time* included her on its annual list of the $\underline{100}$ most influential people in 2010, 2015, and 2019. [473] She was one of the "Silence Breakers" that the magazine spotlighted as Person of the Year in 2017 for speaking up about sexual assault, [474] and received the honor again in 2023 for her cultural domination that year. [429] *Time* described Swift as the first Person of the Year to be recognized for "achievement in the arts", as well as the first woman to be recognized and appear on a Person of the Year cover more than once. [475][476] In 2014, she was named to \underline{Forbes} 30 Under 30 list in the music category and again in 2017 in its "All-Star Alumni" category. [478] Swift became the youngest woman to be included on \underline{Forbes} list of the $\underline{100}$ most powerful woman in 2015, ranked at number $\underline{64}$. [479] In 2023, she was ranked by \underline{Forbes} as the fifth-most powerful woman in the world, the first entertainer to ever place in the top five. [480][481] Swift received an $\underline{honorary}$ \underline{Doctor} of Fine Arts degree from New York University and served as its $\underline{commencement}$ speaker on May 18, $\underline{2022}$. [250]

Cultural status

Swift has been credited with making a profound impact on the <u>music industry</u>, <u>popular culture</u> and the economy. She dominates cultural conversations, which has led publications to describe her as a cultural "vitality" or <u>zeitgeist</u>. Her music, life and public image are points of attention in global <u>celebrity culture</u>. Initially a <u>teen idol</u>, she has been referred to as a <u>pop icon</u>, publications describe her immense popularity and longevity as a kind of fame unwitnessed since the 20th century. In 2013, *New York* magazine's Jody Rosen dubbed Swift the "world's biggest pop star" and opined that the trajectory of her stardom has defied established patterns. Rosen added that Swift "falls between genres, eras, <u>demographics</u>, <u>paradigms</u>, trends", leaving her contemporaries "vying for second place". Swift as a rare yet successful combination of the pop star and singer-songwriter archetypes.

Her fans are known as <u>Swifties</u>. [254] *Billboard* noted only few artists have had her chart success, critical acclaim, and fan support. [494] Swift's millionselling albums are considered an anomaly in the <u>streaming</u>-dominated industry following the end of the <u>album era</u> in the 2010s. [495][496] Economist <u>Alan Krueger</u> described Swift as an "economic genius". [497]

Although labeled by the media in her early career as "America's Sweetheart" for her girl next door persona, [498][499] Swift has been accused by detractors of being "calculated" and manipulative of her image, a narrative bolstered by her 2016 dispute with West. [173][174] Critics have also noted that her personal life and career have been subject to intense misogyny and "slut-shaming", [500][501] as well as a topic of rampant media scrutiny and tabloid speculation. [502] She has been a victim of numerous house break-ins and stalkers, some of whom were armed. [503][504]



Swift at the 2010 $\underline{Time\ 100}$ Gala

Legacy

Swift helped shape the modern country music scene, [506] beyond having extended her success the Anglosphere, [310][506] pioneered the use of internet (Myspace) as a marketing tool, [32][52] and introduced the genre to a younger generation. [507][310] Country labels have since become interested in signing young singers who write their own music; [508] her guitar performances contributed to the "Taylor Swift factor", a phenomenon to which an upsurge in guitar sales to women, a previously ignored demographic, is attributed. [509][510]

According to publications, Swift changed the music landscape with her genre transitions, a discography that accommodates cultural shifts, $\frac{[511]}{}$ and her ability to

"You have different artists dominating different sectors of the industry: Some are huge at streaming, some are big draws on the road. But we're at this moment where there's no one better than Taylor Swift, whether that's on the radio, with streaming, ticket sales or just cultural impact."

– Jason Lipshutz, *Billboard* executive director, 2023^[505]

popularize any sound in mainstream music. Lyrically, in being personal and vulnerable in her songs, music journalist Nick Catucci opined Swift helped make space for later singers like <u>Billie Eilish</u>, <u>Ariana Grande</u>, and <u>Halsey</u> to do the same. Scholars have highlighted the literary sensibility and <u>poptimist</u> implications of Swift in the 21st century. She has been credited with legitimizing and popularizing the concept of album "eras". Swift is a subject of academic study and scholarly <u>media research</u>. Various educational institutions offer courses on Swift in literary, cultural and <u>sociopolitical contexts</u>.

Swift has influenced numerous music artists, and her albums have inspired an entire generation of singer-songwriters. [507][320][518] Journalists praise her ability to reform industry practices, noting how her actions changed streaming policies, prompted awareness of intellectual property in new musicians, [519][520] and reshaped ticketing models. [521] Various sources deem Swift's music a paradigm representing the millennial generation; [522] Vox called her the "millennial Bruce Springsteen", [523] and The Times named her "the Bob Dylan of our age". [524] Swift earned the title Woman of the Decade (2010s) from Billboard, [525] Artist of the Decade (2010s) at the American Music Awards, [526] and Global Icon at the Brit Awards for her impact. [445] Senior artists such as McCartney, [527] Mick Jagger, [528] Madonna, [529] and Parton have praised her musicianship. [530] Carole King regards Swift her "professional grand daughter" and thanked

Swift for "carrying the torch forward". [531] Springsteen called her a "tremendous" writer, [532] while Ringo Starr and Billy Joel considered Swift the Beatles' successor. [533][534] Britney Spears labeled Swift "the most iconic pop woman of our generation". [535]

Entrepreneurship

Media outlets describe Swift as a savvy businesswoman. [536][537] She is also known for her traditional album rollouts, consisting of a variety of promotional activities that *Rolling Stone* termed as an inescapable "multimedia bonanza". [538][539] Easter eggs and cryptic teasers became a common practice in contemporary pop music because of Swift. Publications describe her discography as a music "universe" subject to analyses by fans, critics and journalists. [541][542][543] Swift maintains an active presence on social media and a close relationship with fans, to which many journalists attribute her success. [544][483][545] Her in-house management team is called 13 Management.

Swift has endorsed many brands and businesses, such as having launched clothing lines with <u>L.E.I.</u> and <u>Stella McCartney, [547][548]</u> designed American Greetings cards and <u>Jakks Pacific</u> dolls, $\frac{[549][550]}{[550]}$ released a number of fragrances with <u>Elizabeth Arden, [551]</u> and signed multi-year deals with <u>AT&T</u> and <u>Capital One. [552][553]</u> She was a spokesperson for the <u>National Hockey League</u>'s <u>Nashville Predators</u> and <u>Sony Cyber-shot</u> digital cameras, and became the global ambassador for New York City in 2014 and the Record Store Day in 2022. [556][557]

Social activism

Swift identifies as a pro-choice feminist, [558] and is one of the founding signatories of the Time's Up movement against sexual harassment. [559] She criticized the US Supreme Court's decision to end federal abortion rights in 2022. [560] Swift also advocates for LGBT rights, [561] and has called for the passing of the Equality Act, which prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. [562][563] She performed during WorldPride NYC 2019 at the Stonewall Inn, a gay rights monument, and has donated to the LGBT organizations Tennessee Equality Project and GLAAD. [564][565][566]

A supporter of the March for Our Lives movement and gun control reform in the US, [567] Swift is a vocal critic of white supremacy, racism, and police brutality. Following the George Floyd protests, she donated to the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the Black Lives Matter movement, called for the removal of Confederate monuments in Tennessee, and advocated for Juneteenth to become a national holiday. In 2020, Swift urged her fans to check their voter registration ahead of elections, which resulted in 65,000 people registering to vote within one day of her post, and endorsed Joe Biden and Kamala Harris in the US presidential election. She has openly criticized former president Donald Trump.

Wealth

Swift's net worth is estimated by <u>Forbes</u> and <u>Bloomberg News</u> at \$1.1 billion as of October 2023, making her the first musician to achieve <u>billionaire</u> status "solely based on her songs and performances". [575][576] Forbes named her the annual <u>top-earning female musician</u> four times (2016, 2019, 2021, and 2022). [577] She was the <u>highest-paid celebrity</u> of 2016 with \$170 million—a feat recognized by the <u>Guinness World Records</u> as the highest annual earnings ever for a female musician, [578] which she herself surpassed with \$185 million in 2019. [579] Overall, *Forbes* listed Swift as the highest-paid female artist of the 2010s,

earning \$825 million. [580] She has also developed a real estate portfolio worth \$150 million as of 2023, with properties in Nashville; <u>Tribeca, Manhattan</u>; Los Angeles (Samuel Goldwyn Estate); and <u>Rhode Island</u> (High Watch). [581]

Philanthropy

Swift is known for her philanthropic efforts. She ranked number one on DoSomething's 2015 "Gone Good" list, shaving received the Star of Compassion from the Tennessee Disaster Services and the Big Help Award from the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards for her "dedication to helping others" and "inspiring others through action". She donated \$100,000 to the Red Cross to help the victims of the Lowa flood of 2008. In 2009, she sang at BBC's Children in Need concert and raised £13,000 for the cause. Swift has performed at charity relief events, including Sydney's Sound Relief concert. In response to the May 2010 Tennessee floods, Swift donated \$500,000 during a telethon hosted by WSMV. In 2011, Swift used a dress rehearsal of her Speak Now tour as a benefit concert for victims of recent tornadoes in the US, raising more than \$750,000. In 2016, she donated \$1 million to Louisiana flood relief efforts and \$100,000 to the Dolly Parton Fire Fund. Swift donated to food banks after Hurricane Harvey struck Houston in 2017 and at every stop of the Eras Tour in 2023; she also directly employed local businesses throughout the tour and gave \$55 million in bonus payments to her entire crew. Swift donated \$1 million for Tennessee tornado relief in 2020 and again in 2023.

She is a supporter of the arts. A benefactor of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, [599] Swift has donated \$75,000 to Nashville's Hendersonville High School to help refurbish the school auditorium, [600] \$4 million to find the building of a new education center at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville, [601] \$60,000 to the music departments of six US colleges, [602] and \$100,000 to the Nashville Symphony. [603] Also a promoter of children's literacy, she has donated money and books to various schools around the country to improve education. [604][605] In 2007, Swift partnered with the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police to launch a campaign to protect children from online predators. [606] She has donated items to several charities for auction, including the UNICEF Tap Project and MusiCares. [607] As recipient of the Academy of Country Music's Entertainer of the Year in 2011, Swift donated \$25,000 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Tennessee. [608] In 2012, Swift participated in the Stand Up to Cancer telethon, performing the charity single "Ronan", which she wrote in memory of a four-year-old boy who died of neuroblastoma. [609] She has also donated \$100,000 to the V Foundation for Cancer Research [610] and \$50,000 to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. [611] Swift has encouraged young people to volunteer in their local communities as part of Global Youth Service Day.

Swift donated to fellow singer-songwriter Kesha to help with her legal battles against Dr. Luke and to actress Mariska Hargitay's Joyful Heart Foundation organization. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Swift donated to the World Health Organization and Feeding America, and supported independent record stores. Swift performed Soon You'll Get Better on the One World: Together At Home television special, a benefit concert curated by Lady Gaga for Global Citizen to raise funds for the World Health Organization's COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund. In 2018 and 2021, Swift donated to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention

Month. [582][618] In addition to charitable causes, she has made donations to her fans several times for their medical or academic expenses. [619] In December 2023, Swift attended Ramy Youssef's fundraiser for Gaza. [620]

Discography

Studio albums

Re-recorded albums

- Taylor Swift (2006)Fearless (Taylor's Version) (2021)
- Fearless (2008)Red (Taylor's Version) (2021)
- Speak Now (2010)Speak Now (Taylor's Version) (2023)
- Red (2012)
- 1989 (Taylor's Version) (2023)
- **1989** (2014)
- Reputation (2017)
- Lover (2019)
- Folklore (2020)
- Evermore (2020)
- Midnights (2022)

Filmography

- Valentine's Day (2010)
- The Lorax (2012)
- The Giver (2014)
- Cats (2019)
- All Too Well: The Short Film (2021)
- Amsterdam (2022)

Documentary and concert films

■ Journey to Fearless (2010)

- Speak Now World Tour Live (2011)
- The 1989 World Tour Live (2015)
- Taylor Swift: Reputation Stadium Tour (2018)
- Miss Americana (2020)
- Taylor Swift: City of Lover (2020)
- Folklore: The Long Pond Studio Sessions (2020)
- Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour (2023)

Tours

- Fearless Tour (2009–2010)
- Speak Now World Tour (2011–2012)
- The Red Tour (2013–2014)
- The 1989 World Tour (2015)
- Reputation Stadium Tour (2018)
- The Eras Tour (2023–2024)

See also

- List of American Grammy Award winners and nominees
- List of highest-certified music artists in the United States
- List of most-followed Instagram accounts

- List of most-followed Twitter accounts
- List of most-subscribed YouTube channels

Footnotes

- 1. Swift held the record until the $\underline{62nd \, Annual \, Grammy \, Awards}$ in 2020. $\underline{[90][91]}$
- 2. Though Swift has properties throughout the US, she identifies Nashville as her home. [149][150]
- 3. Swift initially wrote the song for her 2012 album *Red*, but left it off the album's final cut. [179]
- 4. Swift and Pat Monahan of Train originally wrote the song for Swift's 2012 album Red. [196]

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