

Sir Elton John



Photo Credit: Deborah Anderson

The monumental career of international singer/songwriter and performer Sir Elton John has spanned more than five decades collecting 35 gold and 25 platinum albums, 29 consecutive Top 40 hits, and selling more than 250 million records worldwide. John holds the record for the biggest selling single of all time, "Candle in the Wind," selling 37 million copies.

The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences awarded John five Grammys, the Grammy Legend Award, and honored him with the Music Cares Person of the Year Award. John was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1999. John was the first artist honored by the Billboard Touring Conference's "Legend of Live" award, which recognizes those who have made a significant and lasting impact on the concert industry. John's new album with Leon Russell, *The Union*, will be released this fall.

The smash-hit stage production of *Billy Elliot*, for which John composed the music, is currently running in London and was nominated for a record 9 Oliver Awards, winning Best Musical, among others. On Broadway, it was nominated for a record-tying 15 Tony Awards and won 10 including Best Musical. Partnering with David Furnish, John is producing the 3D animated feature *Gnomeo & Juliet* set to release in February 2011.

In 1992, John established the Elton John AIDS Foundation, which is one of the leading nonprofit HIV/AIDS organizations by raising \$220 million to support programs in 55 countries. In 1998, the Queen of England knighted him Sir Elton John, CBE. In 2004, John received the Kennedy Center Honor for his lifetime contributions to American culture and excellence through the performing arts.