

## **Reba McEntire**

Reba Nell McEntire was born on March 28, 1955 in McAlester, Oklahoma. Her parents had four children, Reba being the 3rd child. Her mother was a school teacher and had the dream to become a Country Music singer but had 4 children instead. She taught them how to sing and harmonize instead. Reba's dad would compete at rodeos which she soon followed in her dad's footsteps from the age of 11-21 years old. All of Reba's siblings, except one, sought out musical careers. The 3 siblings soon created a group called "The Singing McEntires" in high school and performed anywhere they could. After graduating high school Reba went to Southeastern Oklahoma State University with a major in elementary education and a minor in music.

Reba's music career started when she sang the National Anthem at the National Rodeo Finals in the presence of Red Steagall. Steagall later invited Reba to record demos in Nashville for his company. In March 1975 he dispersed her tapes around Nashville and in November secured her a deal with Polygram Mercury Records.

In the beginning Reba's career was not successful but she continued to work hard on her music career. She really started going when one of her songs hit one of the top 10 hit in 1980. In 1983 she later would co-produce with Jimmy Bowen which allowed her to have more control over her song selection and album production. Reba was later rewarded when she won the CMA Female Vocalist of the year award in 1984. She would go on to win it for the next 3 years (1984-1987). The next award she won was at the Grand Ole Opry where she was named CMA Entertainer of the year in 1986. She would later win more rewards.

Reba later married Narvel Blackstock, who was also her manager, in 1988. In 1990 she gave birth to her first son/child Shelby Steven McEntire Blackstock. Reba later shared her stories about her life (1994) and expand her brand by creating clothing, footwear, luggage, etc. She would also start acting in movies in 1990, as well as TV shows in 1991. While pursuing her acting career she didn't give up as a singer which she still continue to chart huge on. She continued to perform on Broadway but then decided to begin her successful TV sitcom "Reba" from 2001-2007.

Reba McEntire has lived a life full of success not only in her music career but also in her acting career. Her life was featured in the REBA: ALL THE WOMEN I AM Exhibit at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville, TN (August 9, 2013 - June 22, 2014). Reba is one of the most successful female recording artists in history. Overall she has sold over 56 million albums worldwide and has received about 48 awards/honors. She is the biggest female hitmaker in Country music history and is still loved by many people today.

## Works Cited

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