

Holly Hill's Artist of the Week





Arctic Monkeys

Based in Sheffield, **Arctic Monkeys** are special because they were just four, very normal boys from a place not too different from Nottingham. However, by working hard, they were able to become one of the biggest bands in the world. Their music and their backstory have inspired hundreds of boys and girls to pick up instruments and start their own band.



Lianne La Havas

Born 23 August 1989, **Lianne La Havas** is a British singer-songwriter and record producer. La Havas was born and raised in London, England, to a Greek father and Jamaican mother. She was raised in Tooting and spent the majority of her time with her grandparents after her parents separated. La Havas began singing at seven, and talks about her parents' diverse musical tastes as having the biggest influence on her music.



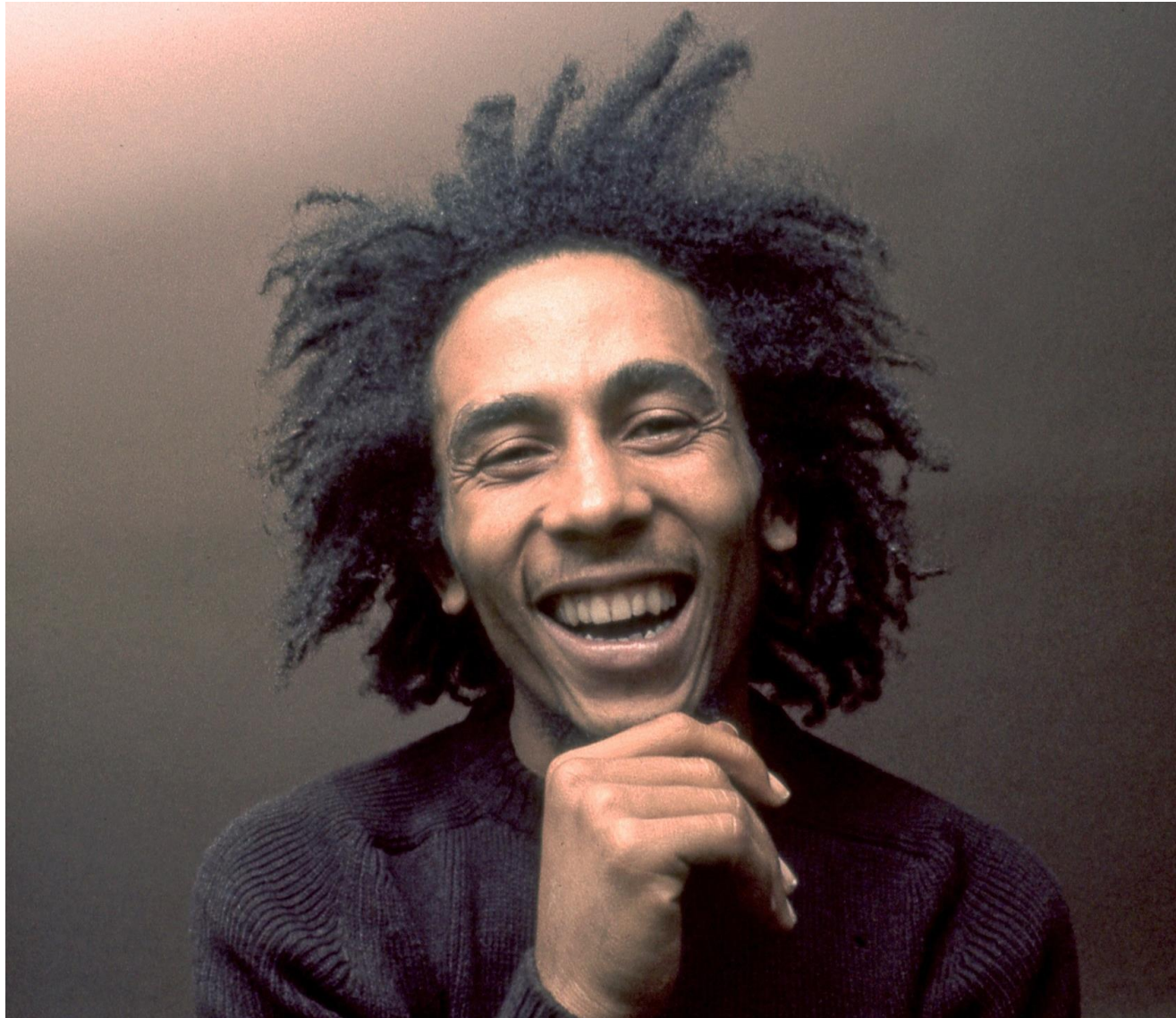
Aretha Franklin

Aretha Louise Franklin (born March 25, 1942 – died August 16, 2018) was an American singer, songwriter, actress, pianist, and dedicated her life to protesting for equal rights for black and white people. Franklin began her career as a child singing gospel at a church where her father was a minister. By the end of the 1960s, Aretha Franklin had come to be known as the "Queen of soul".



The Beatles

The Beatles were an English rock band formed in Liverpool in 1960. The group are known as the most influential band of all time. The music and culture India influenced The Beatles. George Harrison recorded three songs with The Beatles, which were influenced by the Indian Classical style.



Bob Marley

Robert Nesta Marley was a Jamaican singer, songwriter, and musician, who was considered one of the pioneers of reggae. Marley's contributions raised the profile of Jamaican music worldwide. Over the course of his career. Marley's music is very spiritual. Fun fact: Marley's name was changed from 'Nesta Robert' because everybody thought Nesta was a girls name!



Beyonce

Beyonce Knowles became very famous in the late 1990s. She became the lead singer of an R&B girl group called Destiny's Child. The group became the world's best-selling girl group of all time, selling over 85 million records worldwide. This song 'Freedom' is about racism and feeling trapped due to her struggles being black.



Stevie Wonder

Wonder became one of the most successful and well-known artists. He has recorded 23 albums mostly about love and peace. He has been blind nearly since his birth. While in the hospital, his incubator was left too warm which damaged his retina and made him lose his sight.



Kate Bush

Catherine Bush is an English singer, songwriter, musician, dancer and record producer. In 1978, aged 19, she became the first female artist to achieve a UK number one with a self-written song. She was the first British solo female artist to top the UK album charts and the first female artist to enter the album chart at number one.



The Jackson 5

The Jackson 5, later known as **The Jacksons**, is an American pop band composed of members of the Jackson family. The father of the boys heard one of the boys, Tito, playing a guitar with a broken string, and was so impressed he gave hi his own guitar. In 1980 the brothers were honoured with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame as the Jacksons.



Ella Fitzgerald

Ella Jane

Fitzgerald (April 25, 1917 – June 15, 1996) was an American jazz singer, sometimes referred to as the First Lady of Song, Queen of Jazz, and Lady Ella. She was particularly well known for her 'scat' singing, which you can hear in the song!



Toots and the Maytals

Toots and the Maytals, originally called **The Maytals**, were a Jamaican musical group, one of the best known ska vocal groups. The Maytals were formed in the early 1960s and were key figures in popularizing reggae music. Frontman Toots Hibbert is considered a Reggae pioneer.



John Legend

John Legend was born in 1978, in Ohio. His father was a drummer, and his mother sang and directed the church choir, and his grandmother was the church organist. He began playing the piano at age 4. At the age of 7, he performed with his church choir.



David Bowie

When **David Bowie** was at school, he played the Recorder and the Ukulele. Bowie was known playing different characters when recording lots of his albums. He wore make-up and dresses. He inspired lots of other musicians and showed people that they could be whoever they wanted to be.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1sQjh261rU8>



Lauryn Hill

Lauryn Noelle Hill (born May 26, 1975) is an American singer, rapper, songwriter, and record producer. Often regarded as one of the greatest rappers of all time, Hill is credited for breaking barriers for female rappers and for bringing hip hop to popular music. Hill has influenced many artists of various genres. Raised mostly in South Orange, New Jersey, Hill began singing with her music-oriented family during her childhood.



Nina Simone

Nina Simone was an American singer, songwriter, musician and civil rights activist. Simone played her first piano recital when she was 12. During this performance, her parents, who had taken seats in the front row, were forced to move to the back of the hall to make way for white people. She said that she refused to play until her parents were moved back to the front, and that the incident contributed to her later involvement in the civil rights movement.



Louis Armstrong

Louis Armstrong was considered one of the first *famous* pop musicians. Although we would now consider his music to be jazz, in the 1920s-1940s he was extremely popular on the radio, and he had a huge number of fans. The way we view musicians as celebrities would probably not be the same without Louis.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfThe64HQB05I0>



Amy Winehouse

Amy Winehouse rose to fame in 2006, and she was the leader in bringing the 'old-fashioned' style of music back to popularity. This is something you can still hear in pop music on the radio today. Unfortunately, Amy died at age 27, and she is considered a musical genius that was lost way before her time.



Queen

Queen are one of the most famous and well-loved rock bands of all time. It is extremely rare for a band to become as famous as Queen did. Their music became so popular because it was fun, catchy, filled with guitar solos, and most importantly, it was led by Freddie Mercury – who millions of people loved and adored because of his charismatic personality.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30FTr6G53VU>



John Coltrane

John Coltrane, 1967, was an American Jazz saxophonist, clarinetist and composer. To avoid being drafted by the Army, Coltrane enlisted in the Navy on August 6, 1945. Coltrane's musical talent was recognized, and he became one of the few Navy men to serve as a musician during his service. Coltrane mostly played the saxophone.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6A2LHGx8_A



Sigrid

Sigrid is a Norwegian singer and songwriter. When she was young, she planned to become a teacher or lawyer, thinking she would never be able to be a successful musician. Sigrid was part of a group of Artists, along with Rita Ora and Dua Lipa, who recorded songs for the radio to raise morale during the Coronavirus pandemic.



Paolo Nutini

Paolo Nutini was born in Scotland. Paolo was expected to carry on his father's Fish and Chip shop business, but he wanted to pursue a career in music instead! Before he could get a gig playing music himself, we worked on the road with a band selling t-shirts, trying to figure out how the music business worked. He became known for singing with his eyes closed during his entire performances!



Tina Turner

Tina Turner (whos real name is **Anna Mae Bullock**) is an American-born Swiss singer, songwriter, dancer, and actress. Tina is known as the "Queen of Rock 'n' Roll". Having sold over 100 million records, Turner is one of the best-selling recording artists of all time. She is well-known for her energetic stage presence and very powerful vocals.



Whitney Houston

Whitney Houston was an American singer and actress. She was one of the best-selling recording artists of all time, with sales of over 200 million records worldwide. She is regarded as one of the greatest artists of all time. Houston began singing in church as a child and became a background vocalist while in high school.



Elton John

Sir Elton Hercules

John CBE is an English singer, songwriter, pianist, and composer. When John began to consider a career in music seriously, his father, who served as a flight lieutenant in the Royal Air Force, tried to steer him toward a more conventional career, such as banking. John has said that his wild stage costumes and performances were his way of letting go after his parents controlled him so much when he was a child.



Jimi Hendrix

James Marshall "Jimi" Hendrix was an American musician, singer, and songwriter. He is widely regarded as one of the most influential electric guitarists in the history of music.

Fun fact: Jimi Hendrix was left handed, but left-handed guitars were more expensive than right-handed ones, and he couldn't afford one! So, he played a right-handed guitar upside down, so all the strings were upside down and he had to learn a new way to play!



Cat Stevens

Yusuf Islam, commonly known by his stage names **Cat Stevens**, **Yusuf**, and **Yusuf/Cat Stevens**, is a British singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. In December 1977, Stevens converted to Islam and changed his name Yusuf Islam the following year. He almost drowned in California and prayed to God to save his life, and after being pulled to shore by a wave, he devoted his life to his new religion. In 1979, he auctioned all of his guitars for charity.



Beverley Knight

Knight was born to Jamaican parents and grew up in a strict religious household, and going to church was very important. Because of her parents' religious beliefs, non-religious music was frowned upon. Gospel music (a type of Christian music) became an important part of her childhood. She entered the gospel choir of her local church at just four years of age.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZzA2Ne0HSo>



Michael Kiwanuka

Born and raised in London, Kiwanuka is the son of Ugandan parents who escaped the Amin regime (Amin was a military office who was racist and violent). Kiwanuka is a very normal person who became a very successful musician and has won lots of prestigious awards. He left school in 2005 after completing his A-Levels. He went on to study at the School of Media, Arts and Design at the University of Westminster.