

The Bee Gees

The Story of the Brothers Gibb

The group is rock's most successful brother act. Barry Gibb, born Sept. 1, 1946 in Manchester, England, and his fraternal twin brothers Robin Gibb and Maurice Gibb, born Dec. 22, 1949 on the Isle of Man, were three of five children of Hugh Gibb, a band leader, and Barbara Gibb, a former singer. The three Gibb brothers made their earliest performances between shows at local movie theaters in Manchester in 1955. Their early lives were interrupted when the family moved to Australia in 1958, settling in Brisbane. The trio, known as the Brothers Gibb -with Barry writing songs by then -- continued performing at talent shows and attracted the attention of a local disc jockey, Bill Gates, which led an extended engagement at the Beachcomber Nightclub. They eventually got their own local television show in Brasbane, and it was around this time that they took on the name the Bee Gees (for the Brothers Gibb). In 1962, they landed their first recording contract, with the Festival label in Australia, debuting with the single "Three Kisses of Love". The trio was astoundingly popular among the press and on television, and eventually released an LP, but hit records seemed to elude them in Australia. In 1967, they returned to England and, ironically, after departing Australia, had their first chart-topping single there with "Spicks and Specks". "Spicks and Specks" had attracted the interest of Robert Stigwood, an associate of Brian Epstein. The trio was signed by Stigwood to a five year contract. Their first English recording, "New York Mining Disaster 1941", released in mid-1967, made the top 20 in England and America, and they had successful follow-ups with "Holiday" and "To Love Somebody".

Robert Stigwood arranged for Polydor to release their music in England and in Europe, and Atlantic Records to issue their songs in America. The Bee Gees' records had gorgeous melodies and arrangements, and were steeped in romantic yet complex lyrics, many of them containing a strangely downbeat mood that no one seemed to mind. The Bee Gees single "Massachusetts" was a chart-topper in England and launched the group on their first wave of stardom. Their albums were



unusually well put together during this period, reflecting the influence of the Beatles. The brothers decided to go their separate ways in the early 70's to do solo projects. They got back together in 1973 and followed advice from Eric Clapton to record at Criteria Studios in Miami. They moved there and recorded their first US album, *Mr Natural*, in a soulful R&B style. Having a few hits afterwards, it was not until *Saturday Night Fever* that the world began to notice. It is still, the biggest selling soundtrack of all time. All the songs were written prior to the movie and was going on their next soon to be released album (*Staying Alive*, *Night Fever*, *How Deep is Your Love*). In the 1980's, the brothers took a break to work with some of their favorite singers, writing and producing *Guilty* for Barbra Streisand, Diana Ross's # 1 single *Chain Reaction*, Dionne Warwick's *Heartbreaker* and Dolly Parton & Kenny Rogers' *Islands In The Stream*. They regrouped in the late 80's to release a few more albums. The Bee Gees had another fantastically successful year in 1998. It began in London with Robert Stigwood's stage production of *Saturday Night Fever*, which was a huge hit with West End audiences. This was followed in June by the London press conference where the Bee Gees announced their return to live performance in their ONE NIGHT ONLY world tour. All of these shows were sold-out, making the Bee Gees one of a very few bands capable of selling out stadium shows around the World. These special shows featured performances of all the number one hits from the Bee Gees entire career. The Bee Gees released a brand new studio album in 2001, *This Is Where I Came In*. It was written, performed and produced by the Bee Gees over the past three years primarily in Middle Ear Studios in Florida, which has long been their adopted home. The title track tells a story in itself, because this album really is where The Bee Gees came in, in the sense that it again explored the roots of their music - rock, soul and classic balladry - without losing the contemporary edge that wins them fans in every succeeding generation.

on top of their own achievements other artists enjoyed huge successes with Bee Gees' songs: Immortality by Celine Dion; Wyclef Jean's Trying To Stay Alive; Steps with Tragedy; Blockster's remix of You Should Be Dancing. Steps also released Chain Reaction; while Emotion was released by Destiny's Child.

The Bee Gees have had number one records in the UK in each of the last four decades and are among the top five most successful recording artists of all time. They are the only recording artists to write and produce six straight number one singles, and the first composers to have five songs in the top ten at the same time. Among a lifetime of honours, they have earned 16 Grammy nominations and won seven Grammy Awards. They are in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in both the US and Australia, Songwriters Hall of Fame, honoured by the Brit Awards for their Outstanding Contribution to Music, earned Lifetime Achievement honours from the World Music Awards, American Music Awards and the Australian Recording Industry and Barry Gibb has produced 14 number one records making him the third most successful producer of all time.

The Isle Of Man issued stamps commemorating the Bee Gees as Legends Of Music on October 12, 1999.

On January 12, 2003, sadly Maurice died of complications of an unknown birth defect (twisted intestines and suffered cardiac arrest) that took his life suddenly and without warning. Robin was in England at the time and flew into Miami arriving within his last hours of life to be with his twin brother. Also there, his wife, kids, brothers, and mother.

Mo was the quiet Bee Gee not singing lead on songs, but still commanding attention from us fans. He had a tremendous outgoing personality and was a jokester on stage. His ever-present smile and his harmony will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife, Yvonne and his two children, Adam and Samantha Gibb. Mo was reported to be working in the studio with his daughter on a new album for her. He also just opened a paintball shop this past summer which was his hobby and was known as Commander Mo and his team was known as the Royal Rat Rangers.

The trio is separated by distance only but will continue on in our memories.

1965
Bee Gees Sing and Play

1966
Monday's Rain

1967
The Bee Gees' 1st

1968
Horizontal

1968
Idea

1969
Odessa

1970
Cucumber Castle

1971
2 Years On

1971
Trafalgar

1972
To Whom It May Concern

1973
Life in a Tin Can

1974
Mr. Natural

1975
Main Course

1976
Children of the World

1977
Here at Last... Bee Gees... Live

1977
Saturday Night Fever

1978
Sgt. Peppers

1979
Spirits Having Flown

1981
Living Eyes

1983
Staying Alive

1987
E.S.P.

1989
One

1991
High Civilization

1993
Size Isn't Everything

1997
Still Waters

1998
Claustrophobia

1998
One Night Only [live]

2002
This Is Where I Came In

30+ years of Hits
Congratulations Guys!

