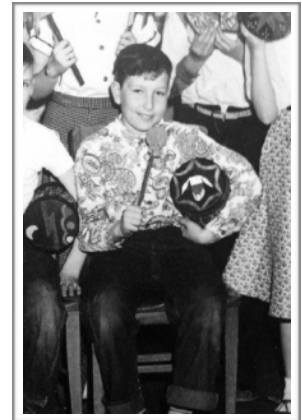


## BOB DYLAN'S SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Bob Dylan, whose original name was Robert Allen Zimmerman, was born on May 24, 1941, in Duluth, Minnesota, U.S. He is an American folksinger who moved from folk to rock music in the 1960s, infusing the lyrics of rock and roll. Hailed as the Shakespeare of his generation, Dylan has sold tens of millions of albums, written more than 500 songs recorded by more than 2,000 artists, performed all over the world, and set the standard for lyric writing. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2016.

### EARLY LIFE

He grew up in the northeastern Minnesota mining town of Hibbing, where his father co-owned Zimmerman Furniture and Appliance Co. Bob started writing poems at around the age of ten and soon also taught himself to play the piano and guitar. Influenced by the music of Hank Williams, Little Richard, Elvis Presley, and Johnny Ray, he got his first guitar in 1955 at the age of 14 and later, as a high school student, he played in several rock and roll bands.



After he graduated from high school, the young Dylan was soon off to the University of Minnesota in 1959, but he found himself not interested in school and started playing in nearby coffee houses. Around this time Dylan had begun to master the harmonica and adopted his stage name "Bob Dylan".



After one year he dropped out of University and made his way to New York. His two goals there were to become an important part of the folk scene in Greenwich Village and of course to meet his idol, the folk singer Woody Guthrie.

Dylan succeeded on both goals, he began playing amazing material at local coffee houses and was seen often in the company of many popular upcoming artists. In 1961 he made his breakthrough when John Hammond, the legendary talent scout, signed him to the label Columbia Records.

### HIS MUSIC

Dylan's eponymous first album ***Bob Dylan*** was released in March 1962 to mixed reviews. His singing voice took many critics by surprise, it was a sound that was difficult to get used to, and the album did not do well.

By comparison, Dylan's second album, ***The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan*** (released in May 1963), became a big hit in both the USA and the UK. The album was a combination of protest songs, love songs, and blues with social messages which greatly appealed to the audience and popularised the singer. Moreover, his first major composition, "Blowin' in the Wind," showed the world that this was no cookie-cutter recording artist.

The summer of 1963, championed by folk music's doyenne, Joan Baez, Dylan made his first appearance at the Newport Folk Festival and was virtually crowned the king

of folk music. The prophetic title song of his next album, ***The Times They Are A-Changin'*** (1964), provided an instant anthem. Bob Dylan and Joan Baez had a romantic relationship and sang and toured together until Dylan presumably left her for another woman breaking up in a heartless, insensitive way.



Dylan was at the time perceived as a singer of protest songs, a politically charged artist. However, on his next album, ***Bringing It All Back Home*** (1965), electric instruments were openly brandished — a violation of folk dogma — and only two protest songs were included. The folk rock group the Byrds covered “Mr. Tambourine Man” from that album, adding electric 12-string guitar and three-part harmony vocals, and took it to number one on the singles chart.



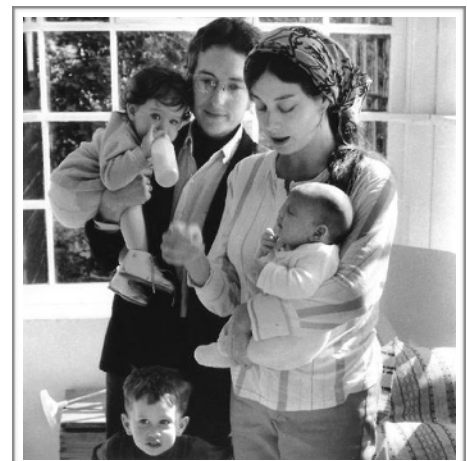
In June 1965, associated with “hardened” rock musicians and together with the Byrds, Dylan recorded his most ascendant song yet, “Like a Rolling Stone”, which peaked at number 1 in the UK charts. “Like a Rolling Stone” spoke to yet a new set of listeners and it was the final link in the chain. The world fell at Dylan’s feet. The album containing the hit single was called ***Highway 61 Revisited*** (1965).

At the 1965 Newport Folk Festival, Dylan bravely showed his electric sound, backed primarily by the Blues Band. After an inappropriately short 15-minute set, Dylan left the stage to a hail of booing — mostly a response to the headliner’s unexpectedly abbreviated performance rather than to his electrification. He returned for a two-song acoustic encore. Nonetheless, loads of articles were written about his electric betrayal and banishment from the folk circle.

By the time of his next public appearance, at the Forest Hills (New York) Tennis Stadium a month later, the audience had been “instructed” by the press how to react. After a well-received acoustic opening set, Dylan was joined by his new backing rock band. Dylan and the band were booed throughout the performance; incongruously, the audience sang along with “Like a Rolling Stone,” the number two song in the United States that week, and then booed at its conclusion.

Backed by electric and rock musicians, mainly the Hawks band, Dylan toured incessantly in 1965 and 1966, always playing to sold-out, agitated audiences. On November 22, 1965, Dylan married actress and model Sara Lowndes, with whom she fell in love probably during his relationship with Joan Baez. They split their time between a townhouse in Greenwich Village and a country estate in Woodstock, New York.

In February 1966, at the suggestion of his new



producer, Bob Johnston, Dylan recorded at Columbia's Nashville, Tennessee, studios, along with the cream of Nashville's play-for-pay musicians. A week's worth of marathon 20-hour sessions produced a double album that was more polished than the raw, almost punklike *Highway 61 Revisited*. Containing some of Dylan's finest work, ***Blonde on Blonde*** peaked at number nine in Billboard, was critically acclaimed, and pushed Dylan to the zenith of his popularity.

He toured Europe with the Hawks (soon to reemerge as the Band) until the summer of 1966, when a motorcycle accident in Woodstock brought his amazing seven-year



momentum to an abrupt halt. Suffering from a serious neck injury, he retreated to his home in Woodstock and virtually disappeared for two years. In 1967 the Band moved to Woodstock to be closer to Dylan. Occasionally they persuaded him to get into the basement studio of their communal home to play music together, and recordings from these sessions ultimately became the double album ***The Basement Tapes*** (1975).

In January 1968 Dylan made his first post-accident appearance at a memorial concert for Woody Guthrie in New York City. His image had changed; with shorter hair, spectacles, and a neglected beard, he resembled a rabbinical student. At this point Dylan adopted the stance he held for the rest of his career: sidestepping the desires of the critics, he went in any direction but those called for in print. When his audience and critics were convinced that his muse had left him, Dylan would deliver an album at full strength, only to withdraw again.

Dylan returned to Tennessee to record ***Nashville Skyline*** (1969), which helped launch an entirely new genre, country rock. It charted at number three, but, owing to the comparative simplicity of its lyrics, people questioned whether Dylan remained a cutting-edge artist.

Over the next quarter century Dylan continued to record, toured sporadically, and was widely honoured, though his impact was never as great or as immediate as it had been in the 1960s. In 1970 Princeton (New Jersey) University awarded him an honorary doctorate of music. His first book, ***Tarantula***, a collection of unconnected writings, met with critical indifference when it was unceremoniously published in 1971, five years after its completion. In August 1971 Dylan made a rare appearance at a benefit concert that former Beatle George Harrison had organised for the newly independent nation of Bangladesh. At the end of the year, Dylan purchased a house in Malibu, California; he had already left Woodstock for New York City in 1969.

Released in January 1975, Dylan's next studio album, ***Blood on the Tracks***, was a return to lyrical form. It topped the Billboard album chart, as did ***Desire***, released one year later. In 1975 and 1976 Dylan barnstormed North America with a gypsylike touring company, announcing shows in radio interviews only hours before appearing.

Lowndes and Dylan divorced in 1977. They had four children, including son Jakob, whose band the Wallflowers experienced pop success in the 1990s. Dylan was also stepfather to a child from Lowndes's previous marriage.



In 1978 Dylan mounted a yearlong world tour and released a studio album, ***Street-Legal***, and a live album, ***Bob Dylan at Budokan***. In a dramatic turnabout, he converted to Christianity in 1979 and for three years recorded and performed only religious material, preaching between songs at live shows. Critics and listeners were, once again, confounded. Nonetheless, Dylan received a Grammy Award in 1980 for best male rock vocal performance with his “gospel” song “Gotta Serve Somebody.”

In 1985 he participated in the all-star charity recording “We Are the World,” organised by Quincy Jones, and published his third book, *Lyrics: 1962–1985*. In 1988 he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame by Bruce Springsteen.

### AWARDS AND LATER LIFE

When Life magazine published a list of the 100 most influential Americans of the 20th century in 1990, Dylan was included, and in 1991 he received a lifetime achievement award from the Recording Academy. In 1992 Columbia Records celebrated the 30th anniversary of Dylan’s signing with a star-studded concert in New York City. Later this event was released as a double album and video. As part of Bill Clinton’s inauguration as U.S. president in 1993, Dylan sang “Chimes of Freedom” in front of the Lincoln Memorial.



As the 1990s drew to a close, Dylan, who was called the greatest poet of the second half of the 20th century by Allen Ginsberg, performed for the pope at the Vatican, was nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature, received a Kennedy Center Honor, and was made Commander in the Order of Arts and Letters (the highest cultural award presented by the French government).

In 1998, he won three Grammy Awards—including album of the year—for ***Time Out of Mind*** (1997). In 2000 he was honoured with a Golden Globe and an Academy Award for best original song for “Things Have Changed,” from the film *Wonder Boys*. Another Grammy (for best contemporary folk album) came Dylan’s way in 2002, for ***Love and Theft*** (2001).

In 2005 *No Direction Home*, a documentary directed by Martin Scorsese, appeared on television. Four hours long, yet covering Dylan’s career only up to 1967, it was widely hailed by critics. A sound track album that included 26 previously unreleased tracks came out before the documentary aired.

In presenting to Dylan Spain’s Prince of Asturias Prize for the Arts in 2007, the jury called him a “living myth in the history of popular music and a light for a generation that dreamed of changing the world,” and in 2008 the Pulitzer Prize Board awarded him a special citation for his “profound impact on popular music and American culture.” In 2009 Dylan released ***Together Through Life***, which debuted at the top of the British and American album charts.

He was still actively performing as he entered his 70s, and his 35th studio album, ***The Rootsy Tempest*** (2012), found him as vigorous as ever.



Dylan continued to receive awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012, and in 2016 he won the Nobel Prize for Literature for, as noted by the prize-bestowing Swedish Academy, "having created new poetic expression within the great American song tradition".

### ANECDOTES

\*There is much myth surrounding his changing his last name. In his "Chronicles" he said that he didn't think Zimmerman would be catchy enough as a stage name and that he first considered making his last name to his middle name, Allen. He then noted that a "D" would be stronger than an "A". But rather than spell it Dillion and in tribute to one of his favourite poets, Dylan Thomas, he choose to spell it Dylan. By late in college as many people called him "Dylan" as they did "Zimmerman" or "Zimmy" and, by the time he made it to New York City, everybody called him "Dylan."

\*It is said that Dylan once visited artist and filmmaker Andy Warhol when he came to pick up actress/model Edie Sedgwick, whom he was dating at the time, and found himself the subject of Warhol's movie camera. Dylan responded by picking up an original Warhol painting and taking it with him "for payment" for being filmed, which he used first as a dartboard, then traded for a sofa (he apologised to Warhol in a press interview years later for his attitude).

\*When Dylan arrived to perform at the U.K.'s Isle of Wight festival in 1969, the singer got angry when he saw there was no toilet in his dressing room. "I don't want to have to go outside to look for some place to pee!" said Dylan to Aronowitz, a journalist and manager who'd helped to organised the trip. "How come you didn't get 'em to get me a dressing room with a toilet?" Aronowitz suggested that maybe Dylan could tinkle out the window. "If my memory serves me," Aronowitz wrote, "this was one time Bob ended up doing what I suggested."

\*They say that when Elvis Presley - The King - passed away on August 16, 1977, Dylan, who was going through a divorce at the time, was at his Minnesota farm with his kids and their art teacher, Faridi McFree, who told him the news. Dylan later said that once he heard, "I went over my whole life. I went over my whole childhood. I didn't talk to anyone for a week after Elvis died. If it wasn't for Elvis and Hank Williams, I couldn't be doing what I do today."

\*At a 2009 concert in Taiwan, Guns 'n' Roses singer Axl Rose, speaking to the audience in between songs, mentioned meeting Dylan years before: "Bob asked me, 'When you gonna record 'Heaven's Door'? And I said, 'I don't know, but we really love that song.' And he said, 'I don't give a f\*\*k. I just want the money.' True story!"

\*In Long Branch, New Jersey, in 2009, Dylan, who was in town for a concert, decided to take a stroll. This did not go well. A couple of police officers, responding to complaints about a "scruffy old man acting suspiciously" picked up the ID-less singer. He was taken back to his hotel, where the reception staff explained to the officers who, exactly, they'd picked up.

\*When he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature, his close friends said it took him more than two weeks to acknowledge he had won. He failed to travel to pick up the award at the official ceremony held out in December 2016 in Stockholm due to pre-existing commitments. Against all odds, he later agreed to accept the award in a private ceremony in April 2017, but again failed to deliver the traditional Nobel lecture, the only requirement to receive the 837.000€ that comes with the prize. He sent a recorded version of the lecture in June, just in time to get the money.

**BOB DYLAN - QUOTES**

1	"Some people feel the rain. Others just get wet"
2	"Behind every beautiful thing, there's some kind of pain"
3	"What's money? A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and he gets to bed at night, and in between he does what he wants to do"
4	"I accept chaos, I'm not sure whether it accepts me"
5	"All I can be is me - whoever that is"
6	"Sometimes it's not enough to know what things mean, sometimes you have to know what things don't mean"
7	"I think women rule the world and that no man has ever done anything that a woman either hasn't allowed him to do or encouraged him to do"
8	"People seldom do what they believe in. They do what is convenient, then repent"
9	"You can never be wise and be in love at the same time"
10	"There is no equality. The only thing people all have in common is that they are all going to die"
11	"You're gonna have to serve somebody; well, it may be the devil, or it may be the Lord, but you're gonna have to serve somebody"
12	"I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with his freedom"
13	"Act the way you'd like to be and soon you'll be the way you'd like to act"
14	"No one is free, even the birds are chained to the sky"
15	"Swallow your pride, you will not die, it's not poison"
16	"When you think that you've lost everything, you find out you can always lose a little more"
17	"Don't matter how much money you've got, there's only two kinds of people: there's saved people and there's lost people"
18	"To live outside the law you must be honest"
19	"The highest purpose of art is to inspire. What else can you do? What else can you do for any one but inspire them?"
20	"Life is more or less a lie, but then again, that's exactly the way we want it to be"