

Lou Rawls

Louis Allen Rawls (December 1, 1933 – January 6, 2006) was an American singer, songwriter, actor, voice actor, and record producer.^[1] Rawls released more than 60 albums, sold more than 40 million records,^[2] and had numerous charting singles, most notably his song "You'll Never Find Another Love like Mine". He worked as a film, television, and voice actor. He was also a three-time Grammy-winner, all for Best Male R&B Vocal Performance.

Contents

Biography

- Early years
- Career
- Charity
- Television and film career
- Death

Awards and honors

Legacy

- Discography
- Billboard Top 50 hit singles
- Chart singles

Filmography

References

External links

Biography

Early years

Rawls was born in Chicago on December 1, 1933, and raised by his grandmother in the Ida B. Wells projects on the city's South Side. He began singing in the Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church choir at the age of seven and later sang with local groups through which he met Sam Cooke, who was nearly three years older, and Curtis Mayfield.^{[3][4]}

Career

After graduating from Dunbar Vocational High School, he sang briefly with Cooke in the Teenage Kings of Harmony, a gospel group, and then with the Holy Wonders. In 1951, he replaced Cooke in the Highway QC's after Cooke departed to join The Soul Stirrers in Los Angeles. Rawls was hired by the Chosen Gospel Singers and moved to Los Angeles, where he joined the Pilgrim Travelers.

Lou Rawls



Rawls in 1995

Background information

Birth name	Louis Allen Rawls
Born	December 1, 1933 <div>Chicago, Illinois, U.S.</div>
Died	January 6, 2006 <div>(aged 72)</div> <div>Los Angeles, California, U.S.</div>
Genres	Gospel, R&B, soul, jazz, blues
Occupation(s)	Singer, songwriter, actor, voice actor
Instruments	Vocals
Years active	1951–2005
Labels	Capitol
Website	www.lourawls.com (http://www.lourawls.com)

In 1955, Rawls enlisted in the United States Army as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. He left the All-Americans three years later as a sergeant and rejoined the Pilgrim Travelers (then known as the Travelers). In 1958, while touring the South with the Travelers and Sam Cooke, Rawls was in a car crash. He was pronounced dead before arriving at the hospital, where he stayed in a coma for five and a half days. He spent a year recuperating and several months before his memory returned. He considered the crash a life-changing event.

With Dick Clark as master of ceremonies, Rawls was able to perform at the Hollywood Bowl in 1959. His first two singles were "Love, Love, Love" and "Walkin' (For Miles)" for Shar-Dee Records, a label owned by Herb Alpert. "In My Little Black Book" and "80 Ways" were released a year later by Candix Records. In 1962 he signed a contract with Capitol Records and sang backing vocals on "Bring It On Home to Me" and "That's Where It's At", both written by Cooke.^[5] Rawls charted with a cover of "Bring It On Home to Me" in 1970 (with the title shortened to "Bring It On Home").

Stormy Monday, a jazz album with Les McCann, was released in 1962. The next two Capitol albums (*Black and Blue*, *Tobacco Road*) sold well and employed Onzy Matthews as musical director and a 17-piece big band. Both albums reached the *Billboard* magazine charts and propelled his career.

Although his 1966 album *Live!* was certified gold, Rawls would not have a star-making hit until he made a soul album, named *Soulin'*, later that same year. The album contained "Love Is a Hurtin' Thing", his first R&B No.1 single. In 1967 he won a Grammy Award for Best R&B Vocal Performance for the single "Dead End Street". In 1967, he performed at the first evening of the Monterey International Pop Music Festival.^[7]

In 1969, Rawls was co-host of NBC's summer replacement series for the Dean Martin Show with Martin's daughter, singer Gail Martin. After leaving Capitol in 1971, he signed with MGM and released the single "Natural Man" written for him by comedian Sandy Baron and singer Bobby Hebb. For Bell Records in 1974 he recorded a cover version of "She's Gone" by Hall & Oates. Two years later with his new manager Martin Pichinson, he signed with Philadelphia International and recorded *All Things in Time*, which sold a million copies. "You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine" became his biggest selling single, selling a million copies, topping the R&B and Adult Contemporary charts, and reaching No. 2 on the pop chart. The hit single "Lady Love" followed, from the 1977 album *When You Hear Lou, You've Heard It All*.

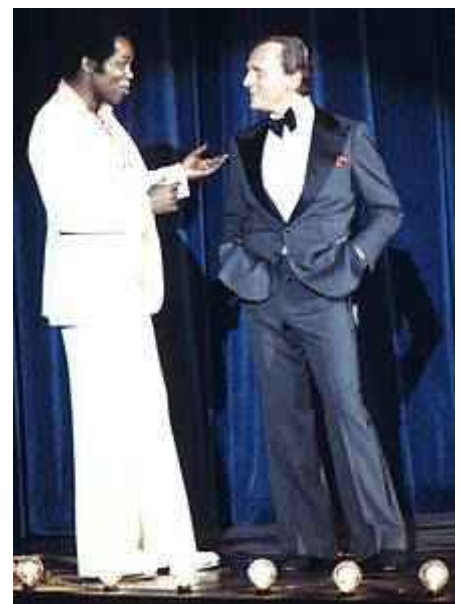
Charity

In 1980, Rawls began the *Lou Rawls Parade of Stars Telethon* which benefits the United Negro College Fund. The annual event, known since 1998 as "An Evening of Stars: A Celebration of Educational Excellence", consists of stories of successful African-American students who have benefited from and/or graduated from one of the many historically black colleges and universities who receive support from the UNCF, along with musical performances from various recording artists in support of the UNCF's and Rawls' efforts.^[8] The event has raised over US\$200 million in 27 shows for the fund through 2006.

Television and film career

Soul is truth...no matter where it comes from, no matter how it is presented

Lou Rawls, 1968 Pop Chronicles interview^[6]



Rawls performing with Frank Gorshin in 1977

Rawls appeared in a segment aired during the first season of *Sesame Street* to sing the alphabet. He dismissed the concept of using cue cards for the performance but reversed that decision when he forgot the order of the letters.^[9] He was a guest during the second season of *The Muppet Show*.^[10]

His first acting credit was in the western television series *The Big Valley* (starring *Barbara Stanwyck*, along with *Lee Majors* and *Linda Evans*). He appeared in the films *Leaving Las Vegas*, *Blues Brothers 2000*, and *Angel, Angel, Down We Go*. He had a role and sang in *Lookin' Italian* (1994), an independent film about the mafia. He had a supporting role in *Baywatch Nights*. He was a guest host on *Jazz Central*, a television program that was broadcast on the BET channel.

For many years, he was a spokesperson for the *Colonial Penn* Life Insurance Company. First appearing in television and radio commercials in the mid-to-late 1960s for *Spur Malt Liquor*, a *Rainier Brewing Company* product in Seattle.^[11] He appeared in a number of *Budweiser* advertisements. Budweiser was a sponsor for the Rawls telethon and UNCF. There was no attempt to avoid the similarity between the title of the 1977 album *When You've Heard Lou, You've Heard It All* and his corporate sponsor's slogan "When You Say Bud, You've Said It All". A track on the 1978 album *Lou Rawls Live* features him singing the commercial slogan. *Anheuser-Busch*, the brewers of Budweiser, suggested his telethon work to him.

Rawls lent his rich baritone to cartoons, including *Hey Arnold!*, *Garfield*, *Captain Planet and the Planeteers* and *The Proud Family*. For many of the *Film Roman Garfield* specials, Rawls would often compose songs, which he would then sing usually doing a duet with *Desiree Goyette*, as well as the singing voice of the title character himself.

Death

In December 2005, it was announced that Rawls was being treated for lung cancer that spread to his brain. With his wife of two years by his side, Lou Rawls died from his illness on January 6, 2006, at *Cedars-Sinai Medical Center* in Los Angeles, California.^[12]

Lou Rawls' final television performance occurred during the 2005–2006 edition of the telethon, honoring *Stevie Wonder* in September 2005 months before entering the hospital and after having been diagnosed with cancer earlier in the year. He performed "*You Are the Sunshine of My Life*" and "*It Was A Very Good Year*" as a tribute to *Frank Sinatra*.

Awards and honors

On the night of September 29, 1977, Rawls performed the *national anthem of the United States* before the *Earnie Shavers-Muhammad Ali* title fight at *Madison Square Garden*. He was invited to sing the anthem many times over the next 28 years. His final performance was in his hometown of Chicago when he was asked to sing the national anthem before Game Two of the *2005 World Series* between the *Chicago White Sox* and *Houston Astros* at *U.S. Cellular Field*.

In 1982, Rawls received a star on the *Hollywood Walk of Fame*. On January 19, 1985, he sang "*Wind Beneath My Wings*" at the nationally-televised 50th Presidential Inaugural Gala the day before the second inauguration of *Ronald Reagan*.



Lou Rawls at Baltimore's Inner Harbor (1980) being interviewed by local news anchor Curt Anderson, promoting the *Lou Rawls Parade of Stars Telethon*



Lou Rawls's tomb at Forest Lawn Memorial Park (Hollywood Hills)

Legacy

Guion Bluford, the first African-American astronaut,^[13] brought the Lou Rawls album *When the Night Comes* (Epic, 1983) into space with him. It contained the song "Wind Beneath My Wings".^[14] In 1989, he performed vocals for "The Music and Heroes of America" segment in the animated television miniseries *This is America, Charlie Brown*.

In January 2004, Rawls was honored by the United Negro College Fund for his more than 25 years of charity work with the organization. Instead of hosting and performing as he usually did, Rawls was given the seat of honor and celebrated by his performing colleagues, including Stevie Wonder, The O'Jays, Gerald Levert, and Ashanti.

In 2009, Pathway Entertainment announced its intention to produce a biopic about Rawls's life, tentatively titled *Love Is a Hurtin' Thing: The Lou Rawls Story*,^[15] with Rawls' son, Lou Rawls, Jr., writing the screenplay^[15] and Isaiah Washington reportedly playing Rawls.^[15]

Discography

- Stormy Monday with Les McCann (Capitol, 1962)
- *Black and Blue* (Capitol, 1963)
- *Tobacco Road* (Capitol, 1963)
- *Nobody But Lou* (Capitol, 1965)
- *Lou Rawls and Strings* (Capitol, 1965)
- *Carryin' On!* (Capitol, 1966)
- *Soulin'* (Capitol, 1966)
- *Live!* (Capitol, 1966)
- *Soulin'* (Capitol, 1966)
- *Carryin' On!* (Capitol, 1966)
- *That's Lou* (Capitol, 1967)
- *Too Much!* (Capitol, 1967)
- *Merry Christmas Ho! Ho! Ho!* (Capitol, 1967)
- *Feelin' Good* (Capitol, 1968)
- *Central Park Music Festival* with Ramsey Lewis, Maxine Brown (Music Images, 1968)
- *Come On in, Mister Blues* (Pickwick, 1968)
- *You're Good for Me* (Capitol, 1968)
- *The Way It Was the Way It Is* (Capitol, 1969)
- *Your Good Thing* (Capitol, 1969)
- *Bring It On Home...and Other Sam Cooke Hits* (Capitol, 1970)
- *You've Made Me So Very Happy* (Capitol, 1970)
- *Natural Man* (MGM, 1971)
- *A Man of Value* (MGM, 1972)
- *Silk & Soul* (MGM, 1972)
- *The Soul of Nigger Charley* with Don Costa (MGM, 1973)
- *Live at the Century Plaza* (MGM, 1973)
- *She's Gone* (Bell, 1974)
- *Lou Rawls with Host Sam Riddle* (Sounds Like the Navy, 1974)
- *All Things in Time* (Philadelphia International, 1976)
- *Naturally* (Polydor, 1976)
- *Unmistakably Lou* (Philadelphia International, 1977)
- *When You Hear Lou, You've Heard It All* (Philadelphia International, 1977)
- *Live* (Philadelphia International, 1978)
- *Sit Down and Talk to Me* (Philadelphia International, 1979)
- *Let Me Be Good to You* (Philadelphia International, 1979)

- *Shades of Blue* (Philadelphia International, 1980)
- *Live On Stage* (Philadelphia International, 1981)
- *Here Comes Garfield* (Epic, 1982)
- *Now Is the Time* (Epic, 1982)
- *When the Night Comes* (Epic, 1983)
- *Close Company* (Epic, 1984)
- *Trying As Hard As I Can* (Allegiance, 1984)
- *Holiday Cheer* with Lena Horne (Capitol, 1985)
- *Love All Your Blues Away* (Epic, 1986)
- *Family Reunion* (Gamble and Huff 1987)
- *At Last* (Blue Note, 1989)
- *It's Supposed to Be Fun* (Blue Note, 1990)
- *Christmas Is the Time* (Manhattan, 1993)
- *Portrait of the Blues* (Manhattan, 1993)
- *Tonight: Lou Rawls Live* (ABCD Music, 1993)
- *In Concert* (Skyline, 1995)
- *Seasons 4 U* (Rawls & Brokaw, 1998)
- *Classic Soul* (TKO Magnum Music, 1999)
- *Swingin' Christmas* (EMI-Capitol, 2000)
- *I'm Blessed* (Malaco 2001)
- *Rawls Sings Sinatra* (Savoy, 2003)
- *Amen* (Prism Platinum 2005)
- *Live in Concert 1992/95* (ABC Entertainment 2006)
- *Merry Christmas, Baby* (Capitol, 2006)
- *Christmas* (Time Life 2006)

Billboard Top 50 hit singles

The following is a list of Rawls singles that made the top 50 on the *Billboard* Hot 100. His first Hot 100 entry was "Three O'Clock in the Morning" in 1965, and his final was "Wind Beneath My Wings" in 1983. In addition to those two, nine other singles peaked at positions below the top 50 on the Hot 100, and additional singles reached the R&B, Adult Contemporary and Bubbling Under charts.

- "Love Is a Hurtin' Thing" - 1966, No. 13 (also No. 1 R&B)
- "Dead End Street" - 1967, No. 29
- "Show Business" - 1967, No. 45
- "Your Good Thing (Is About to End)" - 1969, No. 18 (sold over one million copies and was awarded a gold disc)^[16]
- "A Natural Man" - 1971, No. 17
- "You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine" - 1976, No. 2 (also No. 1 R&B and No. 1 Easy Listening); certified gold for sales of one million copies
- "Lady Love" - 1978, No. 24

Chart singles

Year	Single	Chart Positions			
		US Pop ^[17]	US R&B ^[18]	US AC	UK ^[19]
1965	"Three O'Clock in the Morning"	83	-	27	-
1966	"The Shadow of Your Smile"	-	33	-	-
	" <u>Love Is a Hurtin' Thing</u> "	13	1	-	-
	"You Can Bring Me All Your Heartaches"	55	35	-	-
1967	"Trouble Down Here Below"	92	-	-	-
	"Dead End Street"	29	3	-	-
	"Show Business"	45	25	-	-
	" <u>Little Drummer Boy</u> "	-	-	-	-
1968	"Down Here on the Ground"	69	-	-	-
1969	" <u>Your Good Thing (Is About to End)</u> "	18	3	35	-
	"I Can't Make It Alone"	63	33	-	-
1970	" <u>You've Made Me So Very Happy</u> "	95	32	31	-
	" <u>Bring It On Home</u> "	96	45	-	-
1971	"A Natural Man"	17	17	14	-
1972	"His Song Shall Be Sung"	-	44	-	-
	"Walk On In"	-	-	34	-
1974	" <u>She's Gone</u> "	-	81	-	-
1976	" <u>You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine</u> "	2	1	1	10
	"Groovy People" / "This Song Will Last Forever"	64 -	19 74	19	- -
1977	"See You When I Git There"	66	8	-	-
1978	" <u>Lady Love</u> "	24	21	5	-
	"One Life to Live"	-	32	10	-
	"There Will Be Love"	-	76	33	-
1979	" <u>Let Me Be Good to You</u> "	-	11	-	-
	"Sit Down and Talk to Me"	-	26	-	-
1980	"You're My Blessing"	77	-	-	-
	"Ain't That Loving You (For More Reasons Than One)"	-	57	-	-
	" <u>I Go Crazy</u> "	-	37	-	-
1982	"Will You Kiss Me One More Time"	-	54	-	-
1983	" <u>Wind Beneath My Wings</u> "	65	60	10	-
1984	"All Time Lover"	-	67	-	-
1985	"Learn to Love Again"	-	71	-	-
1986	"Stop Me From Starting This Feeling"	-	-	-	80
1987	"I Wish You Belonged to Me"	-	28	-	-

Filmography


- 1972 "Mannix" Lifeline Episode as Vance Logan
- 1996 *Leaving Las Vegas* as Concerned Cab Driver
- 2000 *Jazz Channel Presents Lou Rawls* (Image)
- 2003 *In Concert* (BMG/Image)
- 2005 *Prime Concerts: In Concert with Edmonton Symphony* (Amalgamated)
- 2006 *The Lou Rawls Show: With Duke Ellington & Freda Payne*
- 2007 *Live in Concert: North Sea Jazz. 1992-1995* (E-M-S)

References

1. "Find a Performance" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20051129004546/http://www.kennedy-center.org/calendar/index.cfm?fuseaction=showEvent&event=MGJPD>). Kennedy Center. Archived from the original (<http://www.kennedy-center.org/calendar/index.cfm?fuseaction=showEvent&event=MGJPD>) on November 29, 2005. Retrieved April 28, 2011.
2. "Lou Rawls Battling Cancer" (<http://www.billboard.com/articles/news/60319/lou-rawls-battling-cancer>), *Billboard*, December 16, 2005.
3. "Lou Rawls Biography" (<http://www.biography.com/people/lou-rawls-273683>). *Biography.com*. Retrieved 18 February 2015.
4. Guralnick, Peter (2005). *Dream Boogie: The Triumph of Sam Cooke* (<https://archive.org/details/dreamboogietrium00gura/page/37>). Little, Brown and Company. p. 37 (<https://archive.org/details/dreamboogietrium00gura/page/37>). ISBN 0-316-37794-5.
5. Guralnick 2005, pp. 392,405.
6. Gilliland, John (1969). "Show 52 - The Soul Reformation: Phase three, soul music at the summit. [Part 8] : UNT Digital Library" (<https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc19834/m1/>) (audio). *Pop Chronicles*. University of North Texas Libraries.
7. Gilliland, John (1969). "Show 47 - Sergeant Pepper at the Summit: The very best of a very good year. [Part 3] : UNT Digital Library" (<https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc19815/m1/>) (audio). *Pop Chronicles*. Digital.library.unt.edu. Retrieved April 28, 2011.
8. McLellan, Dennis (January 7, 2006). "Lou Rawls, 72; Grammy-Winning Singer With a Voice Like Velvet" (<http://articles.latimes.com/2006/jan/07/local/me-rawls7>). *Los Angeles Times*.
9. *Sesame Street Old School: Volume 1* DVD booklet. In 1969 Rawls appeared on the TV show *The Big Valley* in the episode "Joshua Watson".
10. Garlen, Jennifer C.; Graham, Anissa M. (2009). *Kermit Culture: Critical Perspectives on Jim Henson's Muppets*. McFarland & Company. p. 218. ISBN 078644259X.
11. *Billboard Magazine*, December 17, 1966, p. 45.
12. Ratliff, Ben (January 6, 2006). "Lou Rawls, Suave Singer and Actor, Is Dead at 72" (https://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/06/arts/music/06cnd-rawls.html?_r=0). *The New York Times*.
13. Administrator, NASA Content (2 March 2015). "Guy Bluford Remembered 30 Years Later" (https://www.nasa.gov/vision/space/workinginspace/bluford_1st_african_amer.html). *Nasa.gov*. Retrieved 27 October 2017.
14. "Toledo Blade - Google News Archive Search" (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1350&dat=19890503&id=2GVQAAAAIBAJ&sjid=TA4EAAAAIBAJ&pg=6717,5815872&hl=en>). *News.google.com*. Retrieved 27 October 2017.
15. "Lou Rawls biopic in the works" (<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/03/27/2527590.htm>), ABC News, March 26, 2009.
16. Murrells, Joseph (1978). *The Book of Golden Discs* (<https://archive.org/details/bookofgoldendisc00murr/page/265>) (2nd ed.). London: Barrie and Jenkins Ltd. pp. 265–266 (<https://archive.org/details/bookofgoldendisc00murr/page/265>). ISBN 0-214-20512-6.

17. Whitburn, Joel (2003). *Top Pop Singles 1955-2002* (<https://archive.org/details/joelwhitburnstop00whitbur/page/578>) (1st ed.). Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin: Record Research Inc. p. 578 (<https://archive.org/details/joelwhitburnstop00whitbur/page/578>). ISBN 0-89820-155-1.
18. Whitburn, Joel (1996). *Top R&B/Hip-Hop Singles: 1942-1995*. Record Research. p. 364.
19. "UK Charts > Lou Rawls" (<https://www.officialcharts.com/artist/15810/lou-rawls/>). Official Charts Company. Retrieved 2018-10-27.

External links

- Lou Rawls (<https://www.discogs.com/artist/61588>) discography at Discogs 
 - Lou Rawls (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0712675/>) on IMDb
 - All Together - Navy recruiting video (https://archive.org/details/all_together) ("Tell 'em Lou Rawls sent ya")
 - Lou Rawls (https://digital.library.unt.edu/explore/partners/UNTML/browse/?start=2&fq=untl_collection%3AJGPC) interviewed on the *Pop Chronicles* (1969)
 - Lou Rawls (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12907764>) at Find a Grave
-

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Lou_Rawls&oldid=919642186"

This page was last edited on 4 October 2019, at 20:52 (UTC).

Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.