

Shania Twain: Music and Style Trendsetter

You can measure Shania Twain’s career by the numbers. With eighty-five million in album sales, she is country music’s best-selling female artist. But numbers don’t begin to tell Twain’s story.

She became a success in the mid-1990s as a groundbreaking artist, using her distinct voice, glamorous style, and catchy pop-country sound to draw millions of new fans into country music.

Born Eileen Regina Edwards on August 28, 1965, in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, Twain began her life with hardship and loss. Her father left the family when she was a toddler. Her mother, Sharon, moved to Timmins, Ontario, and remarried. Her stepfather, Jerry Twain, adopted Shania and her two sisters. The couple struggled with poverty.

At age three, Twain showed special ability as she sang along to country songs. She played the guitar by age eight, wrote her own songs by age ten, and helped support her family by singing in clubs. At age eighteen, she moved to Toronto, Ontario, to pursue a singing career. Four years later, her parents were killed in a car accident, and Twain moved back home to care for her younger siblings.

She continued to work on her music and caught the attention of a Nashville record company, which released her first album in 1993. Twain followed advice to change her first name to “Shania” (sha-NY-ah), inspired by her stepfather’s native North American roots.

The album contained only one self-written song and was considered unsuccessful, but her voice drew the interest of rock producer Robert John “Mutt” Lange. The two co-wrote most of Twain’s next album, *The Woman in Me*, and by its release in 1995, they were married.



The album became a hit, selling more than twelve million copies. Twain and Lange then co-wrote her next two albums. *Come on Over* became country’s all-time best-seller with forty million copies sold. *Up!* sold twenty million copies. Twain also headlined two world tours, filmed trendsetting videos, and earned Grammy, CMA, and ACM awards.

In 2004, she moved to Switzerland with Lange and their son. They divorced in 2010, and Twain began performing again. She released a new album, *Now*, with all self-written songs, in 2017.

“Songwriting is my favorite part of what I do,” Twain says. “I like to give every song its own personality and attitude and to sing each one in its own style.”

Sources: *Billboard*, *Biography.com*, *CMT.com*, *From This Moment On* by Shania Twain, *MusicWorld*, *Rolling Stone*, *Shania Twain: The Biography* by Robin Eggar

LISTEN:

“Any Man of Mine”

“Forever and for Always”

“From This Moment On”

“Honey, I’m Home”

“That Don’t Impress Me Much”

“You’re Still the One”

“You Win My Love”