

## PATTY LOVELESS: MOUNTAIN SOUL

Patty Loveless mixed many different genres to create an original sound and sang lyrics about real life. Her powerful voice, full of true emotions from growing up in the mountains, helped her sound honest whether she was singing songs that were sad or funny.

Patty Lee Ramey was born in 1957, in Pikeville, Kentucky, to parents John and Naomi Ramey. The family moved a lot for her father's job as a coal miner, living throughout Kentucky and West Virginia. At age eleven, Loveless began singing and writing songs. One move, her father bought her a guitar to help her feel less lonely.

Loveless soon joined her older brother Roger in a duo, the Singing Swinging Rameys, and they performed at fairs and festivals. On a visit to Nashville, by chance, Loveless met Dolly Parton at the Grand Ole Opry. Parton listened to Loveless original songs and encouraged her to keep writing and singing. After she graduated from high school, Loveless went on tour with the Wilburn Brothers, and at age nineteen, she married their drummer, Terry Lovelace. She soon changed her stage name from Lovelace to Loveless.

After recording demos in Nashville, Loveless signed with MCA Records. Her first album was released in 1987 and drew attention from other country artists. The release of her second album was even more successful.



Loveless became a member of the Grand Ole Opry in 1988, and her next three albums earned her multiple #1 hits, including “Timber I’m Falling in Love” and “Chains.”

As the 1990s continued, Loveless reached new highs in record and ticket sales, radio hits, and awards. In the 2000s, she took a new path with her album *Mountain Soul*, inspired by the old-time music of her home in Appalachia. It was later listed as one of the best country albums of the decade.

*Continued on back*

### LISTEN

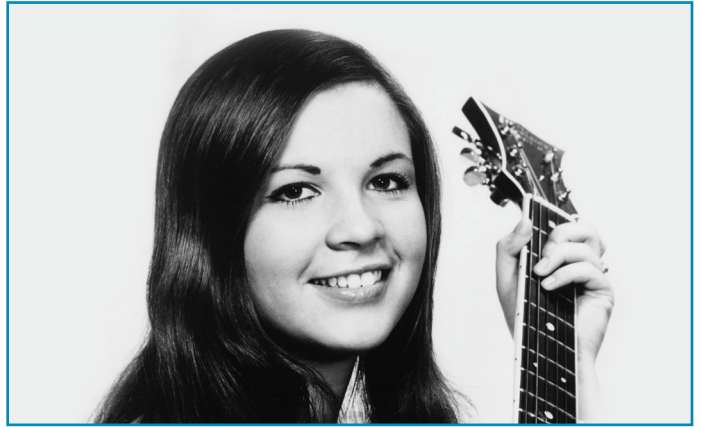
“Timber I’m Falling in Love,” “Chains,” “Blame It on Your Heart,” “If My Heart Had Windows”

## **PATTY LOVELESS: MOUNTAIN SOUL (CONTINUED)**

In recent years, Loveless has stopped touring, staying close to her home in Georgia to be with her husband, Emory Gordy Jr., as he deals with health issues.

But a new group of country stars—including Miranda Lambert and Chris Stapleton—has recruited her for duets. Her music continues to gain popularity with new artists because of her strong singing voice and talent for creating hit songs while remaining connected to the roots of country music.

Loveless has been honored with two Grammys and five Country Music Association awards, including 1995 Album of the Year and 1996 Female Vocalist of the Year. She was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2023.



### **CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING**

1. At what age did Loveless begin writing songs? Why did she write songs?

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2. Circle the phrase “by chance” in paragraph three. What does this phrase mean? Why was this moment important to Loveless’s future career?

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3. In your opinion, why do you think Loveless released an album inspired by traditional Appalachian music?

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