

Bobby Darin

1936 - 1973



Brief Presentation

Group 1:
Kaz Schmanski
Scott Suppes
Ashley Wilson
James Griebler
Sarah Philippe



★ Early Life

- ❑ Grew up in a poor family in the Bronx
- ❑ Sickly child - suffered from many health problems, including rheumatic fever multiple times
 - ❑ Caused him to develop permanent heart damage
 - ❑ Doctors didn't expect he would live past 16
- ❑ Musically talented - played piano, guitar, and drums

Sources: <http://www.biography.com/people/bobby-darin-9266149#challenging-childhood&awesm=-oFHR9OPzcvtkBp>
<http://rockhall.com/inductees/bobby-darin/bio/>

★ Early Musical Career

- ❑ After a few semesters in college, he dropped out and got a job writing songs at Aldon Music
- ❑ Met Don Kirshner, who got him a record deal at Atco records
- ❑ Recorded “Splish Splash”
 - ❑ Took him 12 minutes to write

Source: <http://rockhall.com/inductees/bobby-darin/bio/>

★ Final Years

- ❑ Had success with many songs over the course of his career
- ❑ Forced to get heart surgery to his recurring heart problems
- ❑ Died during surgery at the age of 37
- ❑ Inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990

Source: <http://rockhall.com/inductees/bobby-darin/bio/>

★ Musical/Performance Style

Bobby Darin had a very big stage presence due to him being very charismatic, utilizing heavy crowd interaction, an entertaining song delivery, and the use of a lot of body language.

Darin had a high talent level. He could play all instruments, was a great dancer, a talented performer and actor, with great song-writing skills.

Sources: Pop Dig- The Pop History Dig, retrieved from: www.pophistorydig.com/

The Bobby Darin Story, by Robert Fontenot. Retrieved from: www.oldies.about.com

★ Musical/Performance Style

Darin also had an amazing range, that could include: rock, smooth jazz, rhythm & blues, folk and country, which captivated very different audiences.

Bobby Darin mastered his craft. He had a true combination of many successful artists/performers, and knew the business very well as a publisher and record producer.

Sources: Pop Dig- The Pop History Dig, retrieved from: www.pophistorydig.com/

The Bobby Darin Story, by Robert Fontenot. Retrieved from: www.oldies.about.com

★ Fit into the Evolution of Rock

Darin mastered the term “Breaking the Fourth Wall” down. Bobby was able to speak directly to his audience, live or on TV. Darin was the first young vocalist to appeal to adults, and his many admirers which came out in force every time. His hit “Mack the Knife” truly bridged the gap between teenage and adult fan base, selling to both.

Sources: Pop Dig- The Pop History Dig, retrieved from: www.pophistorydig.com/

The Bobby Darin Story, by Robert Fontenot. Retrieved from: www.oldies.about.com

★ Fit into the Evolution of Rock

Darin changed his style to Folk-Rock during his career. Switching wardrobe from a tuxedo to denim, and began writing and playing protest songs, in addition to protesting vietnam. Bobby played at the Copacabana with a complete four piece rock band, and began doing renditions of songs by the rock group Blood, Sweat & Tears.

Sources: Pop Dig- The Pop History Dig, retrieved from: www.pophistorydig.com/

The Bobby Darin Story, by Robert Fontenot. Retrieved from: www.oldies.about.com

★ Fit into the Evolution of Rock

Darin also once walked off of the Jackie Gleason show after being prohibited from performing his song “Long Line Rider”, a song he wrote which highlighted the terror of the Cummins Prison Farm located in Arkansas where skeletons of three prisoners were discovered in 1968.

Sources: Pop Dig- The Pop History Dig, retrieved from: www.pophistorydig.com/

The Bobby Darin Story, by Robert Fontenot. Retrieved from: www.oldies.about.com

★ Fit into the Evolution of Rock

Bobby Darin helped black artists get on stage in the early 60's by insisting on them being his opening acts. He also performed on stage with Motown artists the "Supremes" on national TV in 1967.

Bobby Darin was edgy and willing to take risks, he was once quoted saying "We are only here once, and do not get a second chance". Women loved him, and guys wanted to be him.

Sources: Pop Dig- The Pop History Dig, retrieved from: www.pophistorydig.com/

The Bobby Darin Story, by Robert Fontenot. Retrieved from: www.oldies.about.com

★ Musical Influences

Bobby Darin was heavily influenced by Louis Armstrong, Ray Charles and Fats Domino.

Darin was quoted as saying “...I was on the Ray Charles bandwagon when it was just a baby carriage... two singers- Fats Domino and Ray Charles- opened up my ears to a whole new world...”(Evanier,2010, p. 144).

Darin usually included a Ray Charles song in his live acts and in March of 1962 released the album *Bobby Darin Sings Ray Charles*.

Evanier, David. Roman candle the life of Bobby Darin. Albany, N.Y.: Excelsior Editions/State University of New York Press, 2010.

Print.

Starr, Michael. *Bobby Darin: a life*. Dallas: Taylor Trade Pub., 2004. Print.

★ Even though it was a short life...

Bobby Darin, in conjunction with a slew of other performers, sang twice for President Kennedy's birthday. Both in 1962 as well as the year of President Kennedy's death in 1963. The President's birthday celebrations during both years coincided back to back with Democratic fundraisers in which Darin had also participated in.

Hunt, Richard, P.. "President Given Birthday Party." *New York Times* 24 May 1963: n. pag. *NYTimes.com*. Web. 31 May 2014.

Egan, Leo. "Kennedy, at 'Salute' Here, Asks Voters to Back Party." *New York Times* 20 May 1962: n. pag. *NYTimes.com*. Web. 31 May 2014.

★ March On Washington, April 28, 1963

Bobby Darin was also present as a performer at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, infamous as the date and location for Dr. Martin Luther King's *I have a dream* speech.

He was quoted in the New York Times (1963) stating that he was "Here as a singer, and I'm proud and kind of choked up" at the event.

"Gentle Army Occupies Capitol." *New York Times* 29 Aug. 1963: n. pag.NYTimes.com. Web. 31 May 2014.

★ Odd Fact

Bobby Darin was a chess player and often featured a segment on his variety show explaining certain moves. Scheduled in 1973, the Bobby Darin Chess Invitational Tournament was postponed by the Soviet Championship in 1973 and never actually took place on account of Darin's death.

The Invitational would have awarded the largest amount of prize money to the winner at the time.

The Legendary Bobby Darin. "BobbyDarin.net/BobbyDarin.com: The Official Bobby Darin Website. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 May 2014.

<<http://www.bobbydarin.com/>>.

★ Bobby Darin legacy

Today, the music of Bobby Darin has continued to influence musicians.

★ Brian Setzer

- ❑ formed Rockabilly band, The Stray Cats
- ❑ Also leads The Brian Setzer Orchestra. A full size big band



<http://infloenz.com/?artist=Brian+Setzer&influencer=bobby+darin>

<http://www.allmusic.com/artist/brian-setzer-mn0000519637/biography>

★ Brian on Bobby Darin

“You see, the reason Bobby Darin excelled in all these areas was because he had ‘moxie’...Bobby, to me, rock twice as hard as that other bobby-soxer, and he never let up. Darin, like Eddie Cochran, didn’t emerge from a cookie cutter mold like so many other ‘50s idols.” pg. 38 from “As long As I am Singing: The Bobby Darin Collection”

<http://www.bobbydarin.net/quotes2.html>

★ Michael Buble

- ❑ Modern day crooner, was introduced to the music of Bobby Darin, and other artists of the era, by his Grandfather



<http://www.allmusic.com/artist/michael-bubl%C3%A9-mn000885569/biography>

<http://www.shmoop.com/mack-the-knife/influences.html>

★ Fact

When preparing for his role in “Beyond the Sea”. Kevin Spacey used Michael Buble as inspiration for playing Bobby Darin



References and Works Cited

Egan, Leo. "Kennedy, at 'Salute' Here, Asks Voters to Back Party." *New York Times* 20 May 1962: n. pag. *NYTimes.com*. Web. 31 May 2014.

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"Bobby Darin Biography." <http://rockhall.com/inductees/bobby-darin/bio/>: Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum. N.p., n.d. Web. 30 May 2014.

"Gentle Army Occupies Capitol." *New York Times* 29 Aug. 1963: n. pag. *NYTimes.com*. Web. 31 May 2014.

"The Legendary Bobby Darin." *BobbyDarin.net/BobbyDarin.com: The Official Bobby Darin Website*. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 May 2014. <<http://www.bobbydarin.com/>>.