

Sir Elton Hercules John (born Reginald Kenneth Dwight 1947) is an English singer, pianist, and composer. He has worked with lyricist Bernie Taupin as his songwriting partner since 1967; they have collaborated on more than 30 albums. John has more than fifty Top 40 hits and has sold more than 300 million records, making him one of the best-selling music artists in the world.

Raised in London, John learned to play piano at an early age. At the age of 11, he won a junior scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music. According to one of his instructors, John promptly played back, like a "gramophone record", a four-page piece by George Frideric Handel that he heard for the first time. However, he didn't pursue a career as a classical pianist. In 1969 his debut album, *Empty Sky*, was released. In 1970, John's first hit single "Your Song", from his second album, *Elton John*, reached the top ten in the UK and the U.S. On the advice of his music publisher, John started writing more complex songs. *Goodbye Yellow Brick Road*, released in October 1973, gained instant critical acclaim and topped the chart on both sides of the Atlantic, remaining at number one for two months. It also temporarily established John as a glam rock star. It contained the U.S. number 1 "Bennie and the Jets", along with other hits, "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road", "Candle in the Wind", "Saturday Night's Alright for Fighting" and "Funeral for a Friend".

His tribute single "Candle in the Wind 1997", rewritten in dedication to Diana, Princess of Wales, sold over 33 million copies worldwide and is the best-selling single in the history of the UK and U.S. singles charts. It has been announced that John would be retiring from touring and embarking on a three-year farewell tour, which began in September 2018.

