

GEORGE MICHAEL You Have Been Loved

Carolyn McHugh



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George Michael was an English singer, songwriter, record producer, and philanthropist who rose to fame as a member of the music duo Wham! and later embarked on a solo career. Michael has sold over 115 million records worldwide making him one of the best-selling music artists of all time. He achieved seven number one songs on the UK Singles Chart and eight number one songs on the US Billboard Hot 100. He was widely known for his success in the 1980s and 1990s, including Wham! singles such as "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go" and "Last Christmas" and solo singles such as "Careless Whisper" and "Faith".

Michael formed the duo Wham! with Andrew Ridgeley in 1981. The band's first two albums, *Fantastic* (1983) and *Make It Big* (1984), reached number one on the UK Albums Chart and the US Billboard 200. Michael's first solo single "Careless Whisper" reached number one in over 20 countries, including the UK and US. Michael's debut solo album *Faith* was released in 1987, topping the UK Albums Chart, and staying at number one on the Billboard 200 for 12 weeks. Four singles from the album, "Faith", "Father Figure", "One More Try", and "Monkey" reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100. It won Album of the Year at the 31st Grammy Awards. Three years after the release of *Faith*, *Listen Without Prejudice Vol. 1* (1990) was released which included the Billboard Hot 100 number one "Praying for Time". "Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me", a 1991 duet with Elton John, was also a transatlantic number one. Michael, who came out as gay in 1998, was an active LGBT rights campaigner and HIV/AIDS charity fundraiser.

His most famous songs were with Wham! and as a solo artist, and he collaborated with such musical royalty as Elton John, Aretha Franklin, Queen, Mary J. Blige, Whitney Houston, Paul McCartney and Beyoncé.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION:

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Carolyn McHugh is a freelance writer and editor based in Southampton England - although her Irish roots stretch back to Cork via Liverpool. Carolyn trained at London University for the Arts. She has written several published books on musicians and rock bands and Phil Lynott was her teenage crush.

KEY SELLING POINTS:

- George Michael has sold over 100 million records and his hits have over a billion streams on Spotify.
- He has had eight number ones on the Billboard Hot 100 and is one of the best selling artists of all time.

'Last Christmas' - A major Universal movie written by and starring Emma Thompson is released in Autumn 2019 featuring the music of George Michael

