

# George Strait

**George Harvey Strait Sr.** (born May 18, 1952) is an American country music singer, songwriter, actor, and music producer. Strait is credited for pioneering the neotraditional country style in the 1980s,<sup>[2]</sup> famed for his authentic cowboy image and roots-oriented sound at a time when the Nashville music industry was dominated by country pop crossover acts. Given his influence on the genre, Strait has been named the "King of Country Music" by writers and music critics.<sup>[3][4][5][6]</sup> Strait currently holds the record for most number one songs on all charts by an artist, in any genre of music."<sup>[3][7]</sup>

Strait's success began when his first single "Unwound" was a hit in 1981, helping introduce the neotraditional movement to the mainstream. During the 1980s, seven of his albums reached number one on the country charts. In the 2000s, Strait was named Artist of the Decade by the Academy of Country Music, elected into the Country Music Hall of Fame, and won his first Grammy award for the album *Troubadour*. Strait was named CMA Entertainer of the Year in 1989, 1990 and 2013, and ACM Entertainer of the Year in 1990 and 2014. He has been nominated for more CMA and ACM awards and has more wins in both categories than any other artist.

By 2009, he broke Conway Twitty's previous record for the most number-one hits on *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs chart when his 44 number one singles surpassed Twitty's 40.<sup>[8]</sup> Strait has amassed 60 number-one hits.<sup>[9]</sup> "Give It All We Got Tonight" was number one in 2013,<sup>[10]</sup> breaking a record also previously set by Twitty. Strait holds the record for most number one songs on all charts by an artist in any genre of music."<sup>[3][7]</sup>

Strait was also known for his touring career when he designed a 360-degree configuration and introduced festival style tours. For example, the Strait Tours earned \$99 million in three years.<sup>[11]</sup> His final concert for The Cowboy Rides Away Tour at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, in June 2014, drew 104,793 people, marking a new record for largest indoor concert in North America.<sup>[12]</sup>

Strait has sold more than 120 million records worldwide, making him one of the best-selling music artists of all time.<sup>[13]</sup> He holds the RIAA record for most certified platinum albums by any

## George Strait



Strait performing in 2014

### Background information

Birth name	George Harvey Strait Sr.
Born	May 18, 1952 <div>Poteet, Texas, U.S.</div>
Origin	<u>Pearsall, Texas, U.S.</u> <sup>[1]</sup>
Genres	<u>Neotraditional country</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>Texas country</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>Western swing</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>honky-tonk</u></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
Occupations	Singer-songwriter <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>actor</li> <li>record producer</li> <li>rancher</li></ul>
Instruments	Vocals <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>guitar</li></ul>
Discography	<u>Albums discography</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>Singles discography</u></li></ul>
Years active	1976–present
Labels	<u>MCA</u> (MCA Nashville)
Member of	<u>Ace in the Hole Band</u>
Spouse(s)	<u>Norma Strait</u> ( <u>m.</u> , 1971)

artist, with 33 certified platinum albums. Strait also has 13 multi-platinum and 38 gold albums. His best-selling album is *Pure Country* (1992), which sold 6 million (6× platinum). His highest certified album is *Strait Out of the Box* (1995), which sold 2 million copies (8× Platinum due to being a box set with four CDs). According to the RIAA, Strait is the 12th best-selling album recording artist in the United States overall selling over 69 million records across the United States.<sup>[14]</sup>

## Early life

George Harvey Strait Sr. was born on May 18, 1952, in Poteet, Texas,<sup>[1]</sup> to John Byron Strait Sr. (January 11, 1922 – June 4, 2013),<sup>[15]</sup> and Doris Jean Couser (June 26, 1930 – January 30, 2010).

He grew up in nearby Pearsall, in Frio County,<sup>[1]</sup> where his father was a junior high school mathematics teacher and the owner of a 2,000-acre (810 ha) cattle ranch outside of Big Wells, Texas.<sup>[1]</sup> The family worked at the ranch on the weekends and in the summers.<sup>[1]</sup> When George was in the fourth grade, his father and mother were divorced, and his mother moved away with his sister, Pency. George and his brother John "Buddy" Jr. (1950–2009), were raised by their father.<sup>[16]</sup> For most of his early life, Strait spent most ranching alongside his older brother Buddy and his father John.<sup>[17]</sup>

Strait began his musical career while attending Pearsall High School, where he performed in a rock and roll garage band, known as the Stoics, taking most influence and inspiration from the Beatles and other British Invasion-era rock groups.<sup>[18]</sup> "The Beatles were big," Strait confirmed. "I listened to them a lot and that whole bunch of groups that were popular then." Strait would perform in other rock bands during his high school tenure.<sup>[17]</sup>

His musical preference soon turned to country with singers Hank Thompson, Lefty Frizzell, Merle Haggard, George Jones, Bob Wills, Hank Williams, and Frank Sinatra influencing his style. Strait did not tune to the country music radio often as a youth, usually listening to the news and the farmer's report. His introduction to country music came mostly by way of live performances, which, according to Strait, could be heard in every town in Texas.<sup>[19]</sup>

## Marriage and military service

He eloped with his high school sweetheart, Norma Voss after their high school graduation.<sup>[17]</sup> The couple initially married in Mexico on December 4, 1971. That same year, he enlisted in the United States Army as an infantryman. While stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii as a part of the 25th Infantry Division, Strait auditioned and began performing with an Army-sponsored country music band, "Rambling Country", which also played off-base under the name "Santee".<sup>[17][20]</sup> On October 6, 1972, while still in Hawaii, George and Norma had their first child, Jenifer.<sup>[21]</sup> Strait served in the United States Army from 1971 to 1975 and ultimately attained the rank of Corporal.<sup>[22]</sup>

## Higher education

<b>Website</b>	<u>www.georgestrait.com</u> ( <u>http://www.georgestrait.com</u> )
<b>Military career</b>	
<b>Allegiance</b>	<u>United States</u>
<b>Service/branch</b>	<u>United States Army</u>
<b>Years of service</b>	1971–1975
<b>Rank</b>	 <u>Corporal</u>
<b>Unit</b>	<u>25th Infantry Division</u> , <u>Schofield Barracks</u>

After Strait was honorably discharged from the Army in 1975, he enrolled at Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University) in San Marcos. He graduated with a degree in agriculture.<sup>[23]</sup>

Strait was also presented an honorary doctoral degree by his alma mater – Texas State University in San Marcos – in a private ceremony on May 26, 2006.<sup>[23]</sup> Strait is a loyal alumnus of Texas State; in 1985 he established an endowment fund for the development and operation of the Freeman Ranch for agricultural purposes, land and wildlife management, and gifts of scholarships.<sup>[23]</sup>

## Music career

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### 1970s



George Strait had his first performance at Cheatham Street Warehouse in San Marcos, Texas on October 13, 1975.<sup>[24]</sup>

During his college years, Strait joined the country band Stoney Ridge, answering a flyer the band posted around campus looking for a new vocalist. Strait renamed the group the Ace in the Hole Band, and quickly became the lead; they began to perform at different honky-tonks and bars around south and central Texas, traveling as far east as Huntsville and Houston.<sup>[25]</sup> They gained a regional following and opened for national acts such as The Texas Playboys. Soon, his band was given the opportunity to record several Strait-penned singles, including "That Don't Change The Way I Feel About You" and "I Can't Go On Dying Like This" for the Houston-based D Records independent label. However, the songs never achieved wide recognition, and Strait continued to manage his family cattle ranch during the day to make some extra

cash.<sup>[25][26]</sup>

While he continued to play with his band, without any real connections to the recording industry, Strait became friends with Erv Woolsey, who operated one of the bars in which the Ace in the Hole band played, and who had previously worked for the major label MCA Records. Woolsey convinced some of his Music Row (Nashville) connections to come to Texas and to listen to Strait and his band play. Impressed with the performance but concerned that they could not market the Western Swing sound that the band featured, they left without a deal.

After several unsuccessful trips to Nashville in search of a record deal in which Strait was turned down by every label in town, he considered giving up music altogether. He was offered a job designing cattle pens and decided to take it. He gave the band notice that he was leaving, but after a discussion with his wife, she convinced him to give music one more year. Not long afterward, major label MCA signed Strait to a recording contract in February 1981. The initial deal was for one song. If the single did well, the label would then consider doing an album.<sup>[27]</sup> The Ace in the Hole band remained with Strait, performing as the backup and touring band for the now solo career of Strait.<sup>[26]</sup>

### 1980s

In the spring of 1981, Strait released his first single for MCA Records, titled "Unwound", which climbed to number six on the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart that year, and was included on his debut album Strait Country. The record featured two more singles including "Down and Out", a number-16 hit for Strait, and

"If You're Thinking You Want a Stranger (There's One Coming Home)".<sup>[28]</sup>

*Strait Country* was hailed by critics as a "new-traditionalist" breakthrough that broke the trend of pop-influenced country prevalent at the time.<sup>[28]</sup> 1982 saw the release of Strait's second album, the critically acclaimed *Strait from the Heart*, which featured the first number-one single of his career, "Fool Hearted Memory", and the top-five Western ballad "Amarillo by Morning" originally sung and written by Terry Stafford in 1973 that would later become one of Strait's signature songs.<sup>[31]</sup> In 1983, Strait made his first appearance at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, when the headlining star, Eddie Rabbitt became sick with the flu. Performing at that rodeo has since become a mainstay throughout his career. He has made more than 20 appearances at the rodeo and played for more than one million fans.



"Amarillo by Morning," which tells the story of a Texas rodeo cowboy, was originally recorded and written by Terry Stafford in 1973. In 1982, Strait recorded the song with a more Western-based instrumentation. The song has become a signature song associated with Strait, and has been referred as one of the greatest country songs of all time.<sup>[29][30]</sup>

Strait recorded 17 number ones during the decade, including a string of five that lasted from 1983 to 1984<sup>[32]</sup> from his next two albums *Right or Wrong*, his first number-one album and the CMA award-winning *Does Fort Worth Ever Cross Your Mind*. The next year, he won the CMA award for top male vocalist, and released his first greatest hits compilation, which featured songs from his first three albums. Also in 1985, Strait released *Something Special*, the third-straight number-one album of his career, featuring the number-one single "The Chair".<sup>[28]</sup> In 1986, Strait repeated as the CMA vocalist of the year and released his fourth number-one album #7.

Strait and his family were struck with tragedy when his 13-year-old daughter, Jenifer, was killed in a one-car, alcohol-unrelated accident in 1986. She was riding in a Ford Mustang driven by Gregory Wilson Allen, 18, of Staples, Texas. Allen was subsequently charged with a class A misdemeanor for vehicular homicide. Mike Cox, spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety in Austin, said, "The responding trooper determined the cause of accident to be excessive speed and that the car did not negotiate the turn properly. Jenifer was riding in the front passenger seat, and none of the four occupants was wearing seat belts at the time."<sup>[33]</sup> When the vehicle flipped over onto its passenger's side, Jenifer was partially ejected, killing her on impact.<sup>[33][34]</sup> The incident caused Strait to greatly limit his contact with the media. He stopped doing interviews for many years after the accident; he and his family did not wish to discuss Jenifer's death.<sup>[35]</sup>

His grief did not hinder his performance, however, or his output, as he went on to release 11 straight number-one hits, starting with "Nobody in His Right Mind Would've Left Her" in 1986 and ending with "Ace in the Hole" in 1989.<sup>[32]</sup> The singles spanned four albums, including #7, *Ocean Front Property* in 1987, *If You Ain't Lovin' You Ain't Livin'* in 1988, and 1989's *Beyond the Blue Neon*, all of which reached the number-one spot on country album charts. *Ocean Front Property* was the first country album to ever debut at number one on the charts by any artist. The streak included such songs as "Ocean Front Property", "All My Ex's Live in Texas", "Famous Last Words of a Fool", and "Baby Blue". Strait finished the decade by winning the CMA Entertainer of the Year award in 1989. One year later, he won the award again.<sup>[28]</sup>

## 1990s

Strait began the decade with the release of his 10th studio album, *Livin' It Up*, which featured two number-one hits, including "Love Without End, Amen", his first multiweek hit, and "I've Come to Expect It From You". Both songs remained first for five weeks in 1990. *Chill of an Early Fall* shortly followed in 1991, and received positive reviews. *Entertainment Weekly* noted that the album marked a shift for Strait from "repeating himself" in his previous works to producing different material.<sup>[36]</sup> It produced the number-one songs "If I Know Me" and "You Know Me Better Than That", but ended his streak of 31 straight top-10 hits with the cover of "Lovesick Blues", which peaked at number 24. The record blocked his run of eight top-charting albums with its peak of number four. In the spring of 1992, *Holding My Own* was released. It did not produce any number ones, but did include two top-five songs, including "So Much Like My Dad".

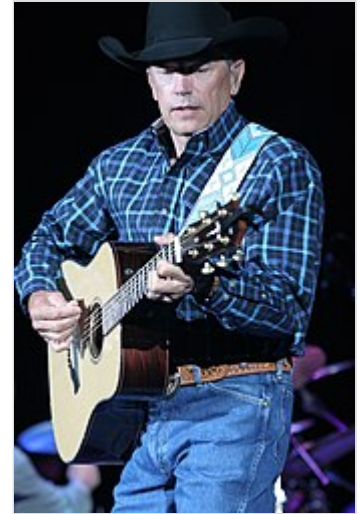
Later in 1992, Strait played the main character in the film *Pure Country*, and released the film's soundtrack. It was his most successful studio album, producing such hits as "Heartland", "I Cross My Heart", and "When Did You Stop Loving Me", and peaked at number one and number six respectively on the Country and *Billboard* 200 album charts. The success continued with his next album, *Easy Come, Easy Go* in 1993, which reached the top five on the *Billboard* 200 and featured the hits "I'd Like to Have That One Back", "The Man in Love with You", and the number-one title track.<sup>[28]</sup>

His next four albums, including *Lead On* in 1994, *Blue Clear Sky* in 1996, *Carrying Your Love with Me* in 1997, and 1998's *One Step at a Time*, all charted at number one, with *Blue Clear Sky* claiming the spot on its debut week, and *Carrying Your Love with Me* peaking at number one on the *Billboard* 200 for the first time in Strait's career. This series of albums produced eight number-one singles for Strait, including "You Can't Make a Heart Love Somebody", "Carried Away", "One Night at a Time", and "I Just Want to Dance with You".<sup>[28]</sup>

During this period, Strait also released a four-disc, box-set career retrospective, *Strait Out of the Box*, in 1995, which also included two new songs, the top 5 hit "I Know She Still Loves Me" and the No.1 hit "Check Yes or No". It became the second-best selling box set ever with shipments of 8 million in the United States. He was named as the CMA's Top Male Vocalist in 1997 and 1998.<sup>[28]</sup> Starting in 1997, and continuing until 2001, Strait headlined the George Strait Country Music Festival, which included artists such as Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, Kenny Chesney, Alan Jackson, and others.<sup>[28]</sup>

In an effort to introduce these acts to as many fans as possible, the festival promised not to visit any market more than twice. It played only a small number of dates, usually no more than 20 a year, but still managed to be the ninth-biggest grossing tour of 1998.<sup>[37]</sup>

Strait completed the decade with the album *Always Never the Same* in 1999, which peaked at number two on country charts and matched the cross-over success of *Pure Country* by reaching number six on the *Billboard* 200. The record produced the hits "What Do You Say to That", "Meanwhile", and the number-one "Write This Down". Reviews of the album's material were generally mixed, but *Entertainment Weekly*



Strait performing live at the 1st Mariner Arena, Baltimore, Maryland on April 7, 2008

observed that at this point in his career, Strait could record the "most lightweight" material and "make it soar" on the radio with his "grace".<sup>[36]</sup> All in all, Strait scored 17 number-one hits on the *Billboard* country airplay charts in the decade, and carried his successes into the next century.<sup>[16]</sup>

## 2000s

Strait released a self-titled album in 2000, which despite a number-one and number-seven showing on the country and *Billboard* 200 album charts, respectively, produced no number-one singles, and was the first studio album of his career to not be certified platinum. The singles "Go On" and "If You Can Do Anything Else" were released from the record, with both peaking in the top five. In May 2001, *The Road Less Traveled* was released. Reviews for the album were mostly positive; *Rolling Stone* described it as sticking to the formula, "but adds a few twists that make it superior to his last few releases."<sup>[38]</sup> It featured "vocal processing", and was considered by some critics as an experimental album.<sup>[26]</sup> Three singles were released from it, two of which reached number one, including "She'll Leave You with a Smile", his 50th on combined charts and "Living and Living Well", both of which reached the top 30 of *Billboard* Hot 100, with the former peaking at number 23, Strait's highest rank on the chart. The single "Run" peaked at number two and reached number 34 on the *Billboard* 100. Strait released two records in 2003. *For the Last Time: Live from the Astrodome* was a recording of the last Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo to take place in the Astrodome. The performance itself set the record for paid attendance at the venue, with 68,266 people, breaking Latin superstar Selena's previous record of about 67,000 in 1995.<sup>[39]</sup>



Strait on the Cowboy Rides Away Tour, XL Center, Hartford, Connecticut, February 23, 2013

His next album, *Honkytonkville* was described as "a fiery set of hard country", and was praised "for its mixture of the old Strait with his modern, superstar self."<sup>[26]</sup> It did not produce any number ones for Strait, but included the hits "Cowboys Like Us" and a cover of Bruce Robison's "Desperately". His 2004 performance at Reliant Stadium set a new rodeo attendance record, with 68,679 spectators. That year, he issued a greatest hits package billed as *50 Number Ones*, chronicling the number-one hits of his career from all charts, starting with "Fool Hearted Memory" and ending with "She'll Leave You With a Smile." A new track, "I Hate Everything", was also included, and became his 51st overall number one in 2004.

The next year, *Somewhere Down in Texas* arrived, which produced the hit "You'll Be There", marking Strait's first appearance on the adult contemporary chart. The next year, he embarked on a tour that included only 18 performances, but grossed over \$15 million. He attributed this success to the fact that his band and he are "musically very tight", have a large pool of songs to draw from, and perform those songs very similarly to how they sound on their albums.<sup>[40]</sup>

On October 3, 2006, Strait marked his 30th year in the music industry with the release of a new album titled *It Just Comes Natural*. The album was recorded in Key West, Florida, in Jimmy Buffett's Shrimp Boat Sound Studio (said to be a better recording location due to lack of allergy flare-ups during recording process), which was also the recording location of *Troubadour*. It featured 15 new songs. Strait's long-time friend and songwriter, Dean Dillon, co-wrote two of the songs on the album. It received generally positive reviews from critics. *People*, in their four-star review, remarked, "If ever there was a natural in country music, it's Strait," while *USA Today* raved that "he continues to make such consistent quality look easy".



Strait on the Cowboy Rides Away Tour, XL Center, Hartford, Connecticut, February 23, 2013

The first single from the album, "Give It Away" reached number one, making one of its co-writers, country legend "Whispering Bill" Anderson, the first songwriter to have a number-one hit in five different decades. The title track, "It Just Comes Natural" became his 42nd *Billboard* number one.

In 2007, "Wrapped" reached number one on the *Mediabase 24/7* country music charts, giving Strait his 55th overall number-one single. From January through April of that year, Strait headlined a 23-date arena tour with country-music legend Ronnie Milsap and then-newcomer Taylor Swift. He released a new album titled *Troubadour* on April 1, 2008. The CD contained 12 tracks, including a duet with Patty Loveless and another with long-time songwriter Dean Dillon. The lead single from the album, "I Saw God Today", debuted at number 19 on the *Radio and Records* and *Billboard* charts. It is the highest debut ever for a single from Strait and the fourth-highest debut for a song in country-music history. *Troubadour* debuted at number one on the *Billboard* Top 200 album charts, selling over 160,000 copies in its first week of release. "River of Love", the third single from the album, became his 57th number-one song in 2009.<sup>[41]</sup>

In April 2009, Strait was honored by the Academy of Country Music with the Artist of the Decade Award, which was presented to Strait by the previous ACM Artist of the Decade, Garth Brooks. In June of that year, he headlined the first event at the new Dallas Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas. Strait's single "Living for the Night" was released on May 28, 2009, and was written by Strait, his son Bubba, and Dean Dillon. The song was the lead single from his album *Twang*, released on August 11, 2009. *Twang* was certified gold for selling over 500,000 copies.



Strait on the Cowboy Rides Away Tour, Prudential Center, Newark, New Jersey, March 1, 2014

## 2010s

In 2010, *Billboard* ranked Strait number one in the top-25 country artists of the past 25 years.<sup>[42]</sup> On September 6, 2011, Strait released the album, *Here for a Good Time*, which yielded two number-one singles—"Here for a Good Time" and "Love's Gonna Make It Alright"—bringing Strait's number-one singles total to 59. The album's third single, "Drinkin' Man", was less successful, peaking at number 37.

In October 2012, Strait released the single "Give It All We Got Tonight",<sup>[43]</sup> which was included on his album *Love Is Everything*, released on May 14, 2013. The song initiated a "60 for 60" movement by Strait's label, to make the song his 60th number-one single on all country charts while he was still 60 years old.<sup>[44]</sup> The song reached the top of the *Mediabase* charts in May 2013. The album's next single, "I Believe", reached number 50 on the U.S. Country Airplay chart, making it Strait's first single to miss the top 40. Strait won the 2013 CMA Entertainer of the Year award.

In November 2013, *Billboard* presented Strait with its Legend of Live honor during the 10th annual *Billboard Touring Awards* ceremony.<sup>[45]</sup> The award honors the concert industry's top artist based on *Billboard's* Boxscore chart and box-office performance.<sup>[46]</sup> Strait is the first country artist to receive *Billboard's* highest touring accolade.<sup>[47]</sup> On April 19, 2015, Strait made a guest appearance at the 2015 ACM Awards, he performed "All My Ex's Lives in Texas" and his new single "Let it Go".<sup>[48]</sup>

In 2016, Strait was selected as one of 30 artists to perform on "Forever Country", for a mash-up track of "Take Me Home, Country Roads", "On the Road Again", and "I Will Always Love You", which celebrates 50 years of the CMA Awards.<sup>[49]</sup>

In 2018, Strait released a single called "Codigo", after a brand of tequila produced by a company in which he had invested.<sup>[50]</sup>

## The Cowboy Rides Away Tour

On September 26, 2012, Strait announced that he was retiring from touring, and that his Cowboy Rides Away Tour would be his last.<sup>[51][52][53]</sup> Tickets for both arenas and stadiums on the Cowboy Rides Away Tour sold out in a matter of hours. The tour started on January 18, 2013, in Lubbock, Texas, and was divided into two legs: 21 concerts in 2013 and 26 concerts in 2014. The tour ended in Arlington, Texas, on June 7, 2014. Strait was supported on the tour by his longtime 11-member touring group, the Ace in the Hole Band. For the 2013 leg, Martina McBride was the opening performer.<sup>[51]</sup>



Strait on the Cowboy Rides Away Tour, XL Center, Hartford, Connecticut, February 23, 2013

On January 9, 2014, Strait initiated the second leg of the tour, which featured the opening performers Jason Aldean, Eric Church, Martina McBride, Miranda Lambert, Little Big Town, Vince Gill, Lee Ann Womack, Merle Haggard, Chris Young, Ronnie Dunn, Luke Bryan, Tim McGraw, Kenny Chesney, Alan Jackson, and Asleep at the Wheel.<sup>[54]</sup> Many of these performers gathered together for the tour's final concert in Arlington, Texas on June 7, before 104,793 fans—the second largest ticketed attendance ever at a single concert in the United States. The concert also set a record for the largest gross at a single-show country concert, \$18,194,374, and broke the 33-year-old record as well for "largest indoor concert ever," easily surpassing the 87,500 fans who attended the December 5, 1981, Rolling Stones concert at the New Orleans Superdome (opening acts, The Neville Brothers, followed by George Thorogood and the Destroyers).

A live album recorded from the final concert in Arlington titled *The Cowboy Rides Away: Live from AT&T Stadium* was released on September 16, 2014, with DVD/CDs of the concert being released on November 10, 2014, with Walmart exclusively releasing a deluxe edition including two CDs, as well. This deluxe DVD is the entire over three-hour concert and the accompanying two CDs have 28 of the 40 songs sung that night.<sup>[55]</sup> On August 29, 2014, the Country Music Television channel broadcast a two-hour concert special of the event titled *George Strait: The Cowboy Rides Away*.<sup>[55]</sup> This CMT concert special had 1¼ hours of music from the concert and interviews.

## Musical style

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Strait's style of country music has been largely labeled as neotraditional country, which relies on traditional instrumentation in country music, i.e. fiddle and pedal steel guitar.<sup>[56][2][57]</sup> His style has also been labeled as Texas country, Western swing,<sup>[58][56]</sup> and honky-tonk.<sup>[56][58]</sup>

## Personal life

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Strait eloped in Mexico with his high school sweetheart Norma in December 1971.<sup>[59]</sup> Their first child, Jenifer, was born on October 6, 1972. Their son, George Harvey Strait Jr., known as "Bubba", was born in 1981.<sup>[60]</sup>

Jenifer was killed in an automobile accident in San Marcos on June 25, 1986, at age 13. The family set up the Jenifer Lyn Strait Foundation, which donates money to children's charities in the San Antonio area.<sup>[61]</sup> George Strait Jr., who is a graduate of Texas A&M, competed as a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association team-roping competitor.<sup>[62]</sup> Strait was able to watch his son compete at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in 2006 shortly before taking the stage for his own performance.<sup>[63]</sup>

On April 10th, 2009 John Byron "Buddy" Strait, who was George's older brother, died at the age of 58.

Since 2010, Strait has served as spokesman for the VF Corporation's Wrangler National Patriot program, a campaign designed to raise awareness and funds for America's wounded and fallen military veterans and their families.<sup>[64]</sup> Strait says, "I've been a part of the Wrangler family for a long time... when they came to me with the idea for supporting fallen and wounded American veterans and their families, I knew I wanted to get involved."<sup>[64]</sup> He also appeared in commercials for Tractor Supply Company.<sup>[65]</sup>

In February 2012, Strait became a grandfather when George Strait Jr. and his wife Tamara had their first child, a son, George Harvey Strait III.<sup>[66]</sup>

Strait owns a Gulfstream G450 business jet; its tail number is N518GS.<sup>[67]</sup> His personal aircraft is housed at the Landmark Aviation facility in San Antonio. He teamed up with Texas Governor Greg Abbott to help with disaster relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Harvey which devastated coastal areas of Texas.<sup>[68]</sup>

Strait along with long-time friend and business partner Tom Cusick created the Vaqueros Del Mar (Cowboys of the Sea) Invitational Golf Tournament and Concert held annually at Strait and Cusick's Texas Hill Country resort Tapatio Springs Resort near Boerne, Texas. The Invitational raises money for David Feherty's Troops First Foundation, benefiting wounded servicemen, servicewomen and their families. Since its beginning in 2012, more than US\$5 million have been raised by the events.<sup>[69][70][71]</sup> In January 2018, George Strait was named the 2018 Texan of the Year by the Texas Legislative Conference, a statewide group of business and political leaders. Strait was honored for his fundraising efforts in the wake of the widespread flooding following Hurricane Harvey.<sup>[72][73]</sup>



Strait at the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo in 2005



Vaqueros del Mar 5, George Strait auctions off his boots for the troops: George Strait, Tom Cusick, David Feherty

## Discography

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In more than 30 years of recording, all of which have been spent with MCA Records, George Strait has garnered 61 number-one songs on all country charts (including *Mediabase 24/7*, the former *Radio & Records* chart, and the now-defunct Gavin Report chart), and has more number-one hits than any other artist in a single genre. His 44 *Billboard* country number-one hits are a record, four more than Conway Twitty's total that includes several duets with Loretta Lynn.<sup>[74]</sup> Additionally, Strait is also the first artist in the history of *Billboard* to have at least one single enter the top 10 of a *Billboard* chart for 30 consecutive years, starting in 1981 when his debut single "Unwound" peaked at number six on the Hot Country Singles chart. All of his top-10 singles have been on that chart.<sup>[75]</sup> Strait has sold more than 68 million records in the United States alone,<sup>[76]</sup> and his certifications from the RIAA include 13 multiplatinum, 33 platinum, and 38 gold albums.<sup>[77]</sup>

- *Strait Country* (1981)
- *Strait from the Heart* (1982)
- *Right or Wrong* (1983)
- *Does Fort Worth Ever Cross Your Mind* (1984)
- *Something Special* (1985)
- *#7* (1986)
- *Ocean Front Property* (1987)
- *If You Ain't Lovin' You Ain't Livin'* (1988)
- *Beyond the Blue Neon* (1989)
- *Livin' It Up* (1990)
- *Chill of an Early Fall* (1991)
- *Holding My Own* (1992)
- *Easy Come Easy Go* (1993)
- *Lead On* (1994)
- *Blue Clear Sky* (1996)
- *Carrying Your Love with Me* (1997)
- *One Step at a Time* (1998)
- *Always Never the Same* (1999)
- *George Strait* (2000)
- *The Road Less Traveled* (2001)
- *Honkytonkville* (2003)
- *Somewhere Down in Texas* (2005)
- *It Just Comes Natural* (2006)
- *Troubadour* (2008)
- *Twang* (2009)
- *Here for a Good Time* (2011)
- *Love Is Everything* (2013)
- *Cold Beer Conversation* (2015)
- *Honky Tonk Time Machine* (2019)

## Filmography

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Strait has acted in several films. He had a bit part in *The Soldier* (1982) and starred in *Pure Country* (1992). He also appeared as himself in *Grand Champion* (2002).

The film *Pure Country* featured George Strait in the lead role as Dusty Chandler, a famous country singer who strays too far from his country roots and traditional sound. It provided the opportunity for Strait to branch out from his own traditional country sound for a more rock-and-roll approach. The film had little success at the box office and took in only \$15 million, but the soundtrack also called *Pure Country*, produced several hit singles for Strait. It has become his best-selling album to date. Strait had a limited role in the sequel to *Pure Country*, *Pure Country 2: The Gift*.<sup>[78]</sup>

Year	Title	Role
1982	<i>The Soldier</i>	Himself
1992	<i>Pure Country</i>	Wyatt "Dusty" Chandler
2002	<i>Grand Champion</i>	Himself
2003	<i>King of the Hill</i>	Voice of Cornell
2010	<i>Pure Country 2: The Gift</i>	Himself

## Honors and awards

Strait holds the record for most number-one albums and singles, gold albums, platinum albums, and multiplatinum albums in the history of country music, and is 11th in the most number-one albums in all other genres. Strait is third only to [Elvis Presley](#) and [The Beatles](#) with the most gold and platinum albums in the history of music.<sup>[79]</sup> Strait has been certified as the 12th-best selling artist in American history, with career record sales of 70 million in the United States.<sup>[80]</sup>

Strait has held the world record for most number one hit singles across all charts and genres with 60 number-one hits since 2013,<sup>[3][7]</sup> and is the only artist in the history of music of any kind to have a top-10 hit every year for 30 years. He is also second all-time in top-10 hits in the history of music, currently five away from breaking the all-time record held by [Eddy Arnold](#), who had 92 in his historic career. Strait has won 22 [CMA Awards](#), including consecutive Entertainer of the Year honors in 1989 and 1990, and also just recently won that same honor in 2013 (and is the only artist to win the top honor in three different decades) and holds the career record for CMA nominations (as a whole) and the most consecutively of all time.

As of 2009, he holds the record for the most CMA awards. Strait also holds those same records for wins and nominations for the [Academy of Country Music Awards](#). Strait was elected into the [Country Music Hall of Fame](#) in 2006, performing his then-latest number-one hit "Give it Away" right before accepting his replica Hall of Fame plaque at the 40th CMA Awards. He was only the second artist (after [Eddy Arnold](#) in 1966) to be inducted into the Hall of Fame while still actively recording and producing chart-topping hits and albums.

As of June 8, 2010, Strait was named the top country-music artist of the past 25 years according to *Billboard*. In October 2008, the Academy of Country Music Awards named Strait their Artist of the Decade for the 2000s. He was presented the award by the previous winner [Garth Brooks](#). Past winners of the award are [Marty Robbins](#) (1960s), [Loretta Lynn](#) (1970s), [Alabama](#) (1980s), and [Garth Brooks](#) (1990s).<sup>[81]</sup> With the win of the entertainer-of-the-year award in 2013, he is the only artist to ever win that award in three different decades and also was the oldest winner. The win is currently the longest span between wins for that award, as well. Strait is also tied with [Merle Haggard](#) for the most male vocalist-of-the-year awards.

On June 1, 2013, Strait appeared at the Alamodome, in [San Antonio](#), Texas, before 70,000 fans in the last concert of the first half of his two-year farewell tour. [Governor Rick Perry](#), who was in attendance with First Lady [Anita Thigpen Perry](#), announced that May 18, Strait's birthday, would be "George Strait Day" in



George Strait [Country Music Hall of Fame](#) plaque

Texas each year.<sup>[82]</sup>

In 2023, *Rolling Stone* ranked Strait at number 156 on its list of the 200 Greatest Singers of All Time.<sup>[83]</sup>

<b>Year</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Work</b>	<b>Ref</b>
1985	<u>Academy of Country Music</u>	Top Male Vocalist	—	[84]
1985	<u>Country Music Association</u>	Male Vocalist of the Year	—	[85]
1985	Country Music Association	Album of the Year	<i>Does Fort Worth Ever Cross Your Mind</i>	[85]
1986	Academy of Country Music	Top Male Vocalist	—	[84]
1986	Academy of Country Music	Album of the Year	<i>Does Fort Worth Ever Cross Your Mind</i>	[84]
1986	Music City News Country	Male Artist of the Year	—	
1986	Country Music Association	Male Vocalist of the Year	—	[85]
1986	Billboard Year-End Awards	Top Country Artist	—	
1987	Billboard Year-End Awards	Top Country Artist	—	
1988	Academy of Country Music	Top Male Vocalist	—	[84]
1989	Country Music Association	Entertainer of the Year	—	[85]
1989	Special	Connie B. Gay Award	—	
1989	Academy of Country Music	Entertainer of the Year	—	[84]
1989	Special	Presidential American Success Award	—	
1990	Country Music Association	Entertainer of the Year	—	[85]
1990	Radio & Records	Country Performer of the Year	—	
1991	American Music Awards	Favorite Country Male Artist	—	
1993	Academy of Country Music	Tex Ritter Movie of the Year	<i>Pure Country</i>	[84]
1995	Academy of Country Music	Single of the Year	"Check Yes or No"	[84]
1995	<u>ASCAP</u>	Voice Of Music Award	—	
1996	TNN/Music City News	Video of the Year	"Check Yes or No"	
1996	TNN/Music City News	Single of the Year	"Check Yes or No"	
1996	TNN/Music City News	Album of the Year	<i>Lead On</i>	
1996	Music City News Country	Single of the Year	"Check Yes or No"	
1996	Country Music Association	Single of the Year	"Check Yes or No"	[85]
1996	Country Music Association	Album of the Year	<i>Blue Clear Sky</i>	[85]
1996	Country Music Association	Male Vocalist of the Year	—	[85]
1996	Academy of Country Music	Top Male Vocalist	—	[84]
1996	Academy of Country Music	Album of the Year	<i>Blue Clear Sky</i>	[84]
1996	Radio & Records	Best Single	"Check Yes or No"	[84]
1996	Radio & Records	Best Male Vocalist	—	
1996	Radio & Records	Most Valuable Performer	—	
1997	TNN/Music City News	Album of the Year	<i>Blue Clear Sky</i>	

1997	Country Music Association	Male Vocalist of the Year	—	[85]
1997	Country Music Association	Album of the Year	<i>Carrying Your Love With Me</i>	[85]
1997	<u>American Music Awards</u>	Favorite Country Album	<i>Blue Clear Sky</i>	
1997	Academy of Country Music	Top Male Vocalist	—	[84]
1997	Academy of Country Music	Album of the Year	<i>Carrying Your Love With Me</i>	[84]
1997	Radio & Records	Best Album	<i>Blue Clear Sky</i>	
1997	Radio & Records	Best Male Vocalist	—	
1998	Country Music Association	Male Vocalist of the Year	—	[85]
1998	American Music Awards	Favorite Country Male Artist	—	
1998	American Music Awards	Favorite Country Album	<i>Carrying Your Love With Me</i>	
1998	Radio & Records	Best Male Vocalist	—	
1999	Country Weekly Golden Pick Awards	Favorite Song	"I Just Want to Dance with You"	
1999	Country Weekly Golden Pick Awards	Favorite Line Dance Song	"I Just Want to Dance with You"	
1999	Country Weekly Golden Pick Awards	Favorite Video Entertainer	—	
1999	Country Weekly Golden Pick Awards	Favorite Male Artist	—	
1999	Country Weekly Golden Pick Awards	Favorite Entertainer	—	
1999	Country Weekly / <u>TNN/CMT Music Awards</u>	Album of the Year	<i>One Step at a Time</i>	
2000	Country Weekly / TNN/CMT Music Awards	Impact Artist of the Year	—	
2000	Country Weekly / TNN/CMT Music Awards	Single of the Year	"Write This Down"	
2000	Country Weekly / TNN/CMT Music Awards	Male Artist of the Year	—	
2000	Country Weekly / TNN/CMT Music Awards	Entertainer of the Year	—	
2000	Country Weekly / TNN/CMT Music Awards	Album of the Year	<i>Always Never The Same</i>	
2000	Country Music Association	Vocal Event of the Year	"Murder on Music Row" (with Alan Jackson)	[85]
2001	Country Music Association	Song of the Year	"Murder On Music Row" (awarded to songwriters)	[85]
2002	<u>Country Weekly</u>	Favorite Collaborative Song	"Designated Drinker" (with Alan Jackson)	
2003	<u>CMT 40 Greatest Men of Country Music</u>	Ranked No. 9	—	
2003	Academy of Country Music	Special Achievement Award (in recognition of 50 No. 1 Songs)	—	[84]
2003	Special Award	National Medal of Arts	—	

2004	Cheyenne Frontier Days	Hall of Fame	—	[86]
2005	Country Music Association	Musical Event of the Year	"Good News, Bad News" (with Lee Ann Womack)	[85]
2006	Honorary Doctoral Degree	<u>Texas State University–San Marcos</u>	—	
2006	<u>Country Music Hall of Fame</u>	Inducted into the <u>Country Music Hall of Fame</u>	—	
2006	Academy of Country Music	Single Record of the Year (artist)	"Give It Away"	[85]
2006	Academy of Country Music	Single Record of the Year (producer)	"Give It Away"	[85]
2006	Academy of Country Music	Song of the Year (artist)	"Give It Away"	[85]
2007	Country Music Association	Song of the Year	"Give It Away" (awarded to songwriter <u>Jamey Johnson</u> )	[85]
2007	Country Music Association	Album of the Year	<i>It Just Comes Natural</i> (for artist and producer)	[85]
2008	Country Music Association	Single of the Year	"I Saw God Today"	[85]
2008	Country Music Association	Album of the Year	<i>Troubadour</i>	[85]
2009	<u>Grammy Awards</u>	Best Country Album	<i>Troubadour</i>	
2009	Academy of Country Music	Artist of the Decade	—	[84]
2010	<u>Billboard.com</u>	Top Country Artist of the Past 25 Years	—	[87]
2013	<u>Country Radio Broadcasters Inc.</u>	Country Radio Broadcasters Career Achievement Award	—	
2013	ASCAP	ASCAP Founders Award	—	
2013	<u>Billboard Touring Awards</u>	Legend of Live Award	—	
2013	Country Music Association	Entertainer of the Year	—	[85]
2014	Academy of Country Music	Entertainer of the Year	—	[84]
2015	Academy of Country Music	50th Anniversary Milestone Award Winner	—	[84]
2017	Academy of Country Music	<u>Cliffie Stone Icon Award</u>	—	[84]
2020	<u>Billboard Music Awards</u>	Top Country Tour		
2021	<u>National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum</u>	Western Heritage Awards	Lifetime Achievement Award	[88]

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## External links

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- [George Strait – biography, discography, lyrics, photos, videos](http://www.georgestrait.us/) (<http://www.georgestrait.us/>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20180810210403/http://georgestrait.us/>) August 10, 2018, at the [Wayback Machine](#)

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