

Bob Dylan – the tireless troubadour

● **1941:** Born **Robert Allen Zimmerman** in Duluth, Minnesota, May 24, grandchild of Jewish-Russian immigrants

● **1951:** Begins to write poetry, later teaches himself basic guitar and piano chords

● **1957:** Influenced by **Elvis Presley** and **Jerry Lee Lewis**, he forms his own band – the **Golden Chords**

● **1959:** Entry in Hibbing High School yearbook reads: "I intend to join Little Richard"

● **1960:** Widens musical horizons, listening to country and folk pioneers like **Hank Williams** and **Woody Guthrie**

● **1961:** Drops out of university and heads for New York to join blossoming Greenwich Village folk music scene. Becomes well-known in coffee bars and clubs, and meets ailing Guthrie in hospital. Begins writing songs – and adopts stage name **Bob Dylan**

● **1962:** Signed by **Columbia Records** and releases first album

● **1963:** Catapults to world fame with second album, ***The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan***, containing three of the best-known songs of the sixties – ***Blowin' in the Wind***, ***A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall***, ***Don't Think Twice It's All Right***

● **1964:** Third album, ***The Times They Are a Changin'*** is hugely successful. But his next, ***Another Side of Bob Dylan***, suggests he is tiring of the protest movement

● **1965:** "Folk-rock" genre born as ***Mr Tambourine Man*** is a hit for **The Byrds**. Fans dislike new approach and Dylan is booed off stage at Newport Folk Festival

● **1966:** Tours England for the first time, but suffers a near-fatal motorcycle accident and retreats home to Woodstock

● **1968:** Releases album ***John Wesley Harding***



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● **1969:** ***Nashville Skyline*** released. Pure country tracks reviled by fans who feel Dylan has betrayed his unique poetic, apocalyptic style

● **1970:** Album ***Self Portrait*** is universally condemned

● **1973:** Stars in Sam Peckinpah movie ***Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid***, but gets mixed reviews

● **1975:** Pain of his marital breakup reflected in ***Blood on the Tracks*** – hailed as a return to the old Dylan

● **1976:** Album ***Desire*** becomes his third consecutive number one

● **1985:** Hits the road full time, records with **George Harrison**, **Roy Orbison**, **Tom Petty** and the **Grateful Dead**

● **1997:** One of five recipients of **Kennedy Center Honors**, the most prestigious artistic awards in U.S.

● **2001:** Dylan's ***Things Have Changed***, from the movie ***Wonderboys***, wins Oscar for Best Song

● **2002:** Dylan agrees to star in his first major film role in 15 years. His latest album, ***Love and Theft***, is up for three Grammy nominations