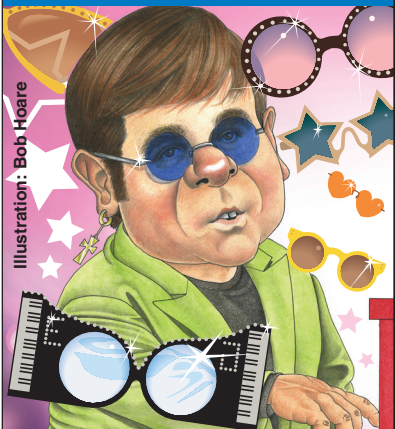


Piano man turns 60

Illustration: Bob Hoare



ELTON JOHN

- ▶ **Born:** *Reginald Kenneth Dwight*, March 25, 1947, in Pinner, England
- ▶ **1958:** Aged 11, wins scholarship to *Royal Academy of Music* in London
- ▶ **1967:** Now called *Elton John*, begins writing partnership with lyricist *Bernie Taupin*
- ▶ **1970:** First hit single, *Your Song*, heralds six years of huge commercial and critical success
- ▶ **1979:** Becomes first Western pop star to tour Soviet Union
- ▶ **1990:** Finally achieves first UK number one solo hit, *Sacrifice*
- ▶ **1992:** Establishes *Elton John AIDS Foundation* and announces intention to donate future singles royalties to AIDS research
- ▶ **1997:** Revised version of *Candle in the Wind* performed at funeral of close friend *Princess Diana* becomes fastest selling single of all time, selling over 30 million copies
- ▶ **2005:** Enters into civil partnership with long-time partner *David Furnish*