

# Smokey Robinson turns 70



■ **1940:** Born February 19 in Detroit, Michigan, as ***William Robinson, Jr.***

■ **1955-58:** Founds vocal group, which after various name and line-up changes becomes ***The Miracles***

■ **1958-59:** Meets songwriter ***Berry Gordy***, who founds ***Motown*** label at Robinson's suggestion

■ **1960:** Miracles' ***Shop Around*** is Motown's first number one hit

■ **1961-88:** Vice-president of ***Motown Records***

■ **1972:** Leaves Miracles to pursue solo career

■ **1987:** Inducted into ***Rock and Roll Hall of Fame***

■ **1999:** Receives ***Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award***

■ **2006:** Having penned 4,000 songs, awarded ***Kennedy Center Honors*** for lifetime contribution to U.S. culture