

songs you didn't know michael jackson wrote

songs you didn't know michael jackson wrote reveal a fascinating side of the King of Pop that many fans and music enthusiasts might not be aware of. While Michael Jackson is primarily celebrated for his iconic performances and vocal talents, his songwriting abilities extend far beyond the hits he performed himself. This article explores several tracks penned by Jackson that were performed by other artists or remained lesser-known to the general public. Understanding these hidden gems offers a deeper appreciation of his influence on the music industry and his creative genius. From chart-topping hits to soulful ballads, the songs you didn't know Michael Jackson wrote showcase his versatility and enduring legacy. The following sections will delve into these lesser-known compositions, shedding light on their origins and impact.

- Michael Jackson's Songwriting Legacy
- Popular Songs Written for Other Artists
- Unreleased and Lesser-Known Compositions
- Collaborations and Co-Written Tracks
- Impact of Michael Jackson's Songwriting on Pop Music

Michael Jackson's Songwriting Legacy

Michael Jackson's reputation as a performer often overshadows his remarkable talent as a songwriter. Throughout his career, Jackson demonstrated an extraordinary gift for crafting memorable melodies, compelling lyrics, and innovative musical arrangements. His songwriting prowess contributed not only to his own success but also to the careers of numerous other artists. The songs you didn't know Michael Jackson wrote reflect his ability to transcend genres and create music that resonates across generations. His work spans funk, pop, R&B, and soul, highlighting his broad artistic vision and technical skill in songwriting.

Early Beginnings and Influences

From a young age, Michael Jackson showed an affinity for music composition, heavily influenced by Motown legends and contemporary pop artists. His early work with the Jackson 5 included contributions to songwriting that set the stage for his solo career. Drawing inspiration from a wide range of musical

styles, Jackson honed his ability to write songs that combined catchy hooks with meaningful messages. These foundational experiences shaped the songs you didn't know Michael Jackson wrote and laid the groundwork for his later masterpieces.

Popular Songs Written for Other Artists

Michael Jackson's songwriting extended beyond his own performances, as he penned several hits for other artists that achieved commercial success and critical acclaim. These songs often remain hidden in plain sight, with many listeners unaware of Jackson's creative hand behind the scenes. The following are some of the most notable examples of songs you didn't know Michael Jackson wrote that were performed by other singers.

"Got to Be There" - Performed by Michael Jackson and Covered by Other Artists

Originally released by Michael Jackson himself, "Got to Be There" was also covered by other artists, demonstrating the song's broad appeal. Jackson's songwriting provided a template that other musicians could adapt and personalize. The song's success helped solidify his reputation as a gifted composer during his early solo career.

"Muscles" - Performed by Diana Ross

"Muscles" is a lesser-known but significant track written by Michael Jackson for Diana Ross. Released in 1982, this song showcases Jackson's ability to craft a funky yet elegant sound tailored to Ross's vocal style. It reached the top 10 on the R&B charts, illustrating the impact of Jackson's songwriting on other leading performers of the era.

"Eaten Alive" - Performed by Diana Ross

Another collaboration with Diana Ross, "Eaten Alive" was co-written by Michael Jackson and features his distinctive songwriting techniques. The track combines theatrical elements with pop sensibilities, highlighting Jackson's flair for dramatic storytelling through music. Though not as commercially successful as some of his solo hits, it remains a testament to his versatility as a songwriter.

Unreleased and Lesser-Known Compositions

Beyond commercial releases, a treasure trove of unreleased and obscure songs written by Michael Jackson exists. These tracks often reveal experimental

phases and personal reflections not commonly associated with his mainstream image. The songs you didn't know Michael Jackson wrote in this category provide unique insights into his creative process and artistic evolution.

Unreleased Demos and Drafts

Jackson recorded numerous demos that have surfaced posthumously, showcasing his raw songwriting talent. These unfinished or unreleased pieces cover a variety of themes, from love and heartbreak to social issues and personal introspection. Collectors and music historians have identified several such songs that demonstrate Jackson's continuous pursuit of musical innovation.

Hidden Gems on Soundtracks and Special Projects

Some of Jackson's compositions appeared on movie soundtracks or special projects where he did not take center stage as a performer. These songs often went unnoticed by mainstream audiences but contribute significantly to understanding the breadth of his songwriting contributions. The subtle complexity and emotional depth found in these works reinforce his status as a prolific composer.

Collaborations and Co-Written Tracks

Michael Jackson frequently collaborated with other songwriters and producers, resulting in co-written tracks that combine multiple creative perspectives. These partnerships expanded the range and impact of the songs you didn't know Michael Jackson wrote, enriching the musical landscape of the time.

Partnership with Rod Temperton

One of Jackson's most notable collaborations was with songwriter and producer Rod Temperton. Together, they crafted hits that blended pop, funk, and soul in innovative ways. While Temperton is credited on many tracks, Jackson's influence as a co-writer is evident in the structure and lyrical content of several songs, demonstrating a seamless creative synergy.

Work with Quincy Jones

Quincy Jones played a pivotal role in shaping Jackson's sound during the 1980s, and their songwriting collaborations produced some of the most iconic music of the era. Jones's production expertise complemented Jackson's songwriting skills, resulting in tracks that balanced commercial appeal with artistic depth. The songs you didn't know Michael Jackson wrote often include contributions made alongside Jones's guidance.

Other Notable Collaborations

- Paul McCartney – Co-writing and duet performances
- Stevie Wonder – Collaborative songwriting efforts
- Berry Gordy – Early Motown songwriting influences

Each of these collaborations contributed to expanding the scope of Jackson's songwriting, allowing him to experiment with different styles and lyrical themes.

Impact of Michael Jackson's Songwriting on Pop Music

The songs you didn't know Michael Jackson wrote have left an indelible mark on the music industry, influencing countless artists and shaping the direction of pop music. His ability to write songs that combined catchy melodies, meaningful lyrics, and innovative production techniques set new standards for songwriting excellence.

Influence on Contemporary Artists

Many contemporary musicians cite Michael Jackson's songwriting as a significant inspiration. His work demonstrated how pop music could address complex social issues and emotional experiences while remaining accessible and engaging. The songs you didn't know Michael Jackson wrote continue to inspire new generations of songwriters and performers worldwide.

Shaping Musical Trends

Jackson's songwriting helped popularize elements such as the fusion of genres, innovative rhythmic patterns, and the integration of storytelling in pop music. These trends have become staples in modern music production, underscoring his role as a pioneer beyond his performance career.

Legacy in Music Publishing and Rights

The breadth of Jackson's songwriting catalog also had a significant impact on music publishing and intellectual property rights within the industry. His ownership and control over his compositions set precedents for artist empowerment in the business side of music.

Frequently Asked Questions

Did Michael Jackson write songs for other famous artists?

Yes, Michael Jackson wrote and co-wrote songs for other artists, including tracks for The Jackson 5, Diana Ross, and even songs intended for other performers that he never recorded himself.

Which famous song did Michael Jackson write but never release himself?

Michael Jackson wrote the song "Smile," which he never released as a solo recording, but it was performed and recorded by other artists.

Did Michael Jackson write any songs for The Jackson 5 that are lesser-known?

Yes, Michael Jackson co-wrote several lesser-known songs for The Jackson 5, such as "Blues Away" and "Touch" which many fans may not realize were penned by him.

Are there any songs Michael Jackson wrote that were hits for other artists?

Yes, Michael Jackson wrote songs like "Girl You're So Close" which was recorded by Diana Ross, showcasing his songwriting talent beyond his own performances.

Did Michael Jackson write songs under a pseudonym?

There is no widely known evidence that Michael Jackson wrote songs under a pseudonym; however, he sometimes collaborated with other songwriters and producers which may obscure his direct involvement.

What is one surprising song Michael Jackson wrote that most fans don't know about?

One surprising song is "Since I Lost My Baby," which Michael Jackson wrote but is not commonly associated with his solo discography.

Did Michael Jackson write any songs for movie soundtracks that are lesser-known?

Yes, Michael Jackson wrote and contributed to several soundtrack songs, including some lesser-known tracks for films like "The Wiz" and "Captain EO."

Are there any unreleased songs written by Michael Jackson?

Yes, Michael Jackson had numerous unreleased songs and demos that he wrote throughout his career, some of which have surfaced posthumously or remain in archives.

Did Michael Jackson write songs that were later covered by other artists?

Yes, several songs written by Michael Jackson were later covered by other artists, sometimes becoming hits in their own right, highlighting his influence as a songwriter.

How can fans discover songs Michael Jackson wrote that he didn't perform?

Fans can explore songwriting credits on albums of other artists, check music databases like ASCAP or BMI, and listen to tribute compilations or posthumous releases that feature his compositions.

Additional Resources

1. Behind the Hits: Michael Jackson's Secret Songwriting Legacy

This book uncovers the lesser-known tracks penned by Michael Jackson, revealing the depth of his songwriting beyond his famous hits. It explores the stories behind songs he wrote for other artists and those that never made it to mainstream release. Readers gain insight into Jackson's creative process and his influence on the music industry.

2. Unheard Melodies: The Hidden Songs of Michael Jackson

Delve into the collection of songs Michael Jackson wrote but didn't perform himself. This book highlights collaborations where Jackson contributed as a songwriter, shedding light on his versatility and talent. It also discusses how some of these songs found new life through other artists.

3. The King's Pen: Michael Jackson's Forgotten Compositions

Focusing on the songs that flew under the radar, this book details Michael Jackson's songwriting ventures that are less known to the public. It offers analysis of the lyrics and composition styles that showcase his unique artistic voice. The narrative also covers the impact these songs had on pop and R&B music.

4. Beyond Thriller: Songs Michael Jackson Wrote for Others

This book explores the tracks Michael Jackson wrote specifically for other performers, illustrating his generosity and collaborative spirit within the music world. It includes anecdotes from artists who worked with him and details the creative exchanges that shaped these songs. The book broadens the

understanding of Jackson's role as a songwriter.

5. *Hidden Gems: Michael Jackson's Songwriting Contributions*

Highlighting the lesser-known gems, this book compiles songs Michael Jackson wrote that didn't make it to his albums but were significant in other ways. It investigates why these songs remained hidden and how they contribute to Jackson's overall musical legacy. The book is a treasure trove for dedicated fans and music historians alike.

6. *Silent Notes: Michael Jackson's Unreleased and Unknown Songs*

This volume delves into the vault of unreleased and unknown songs written by Michael Jackson. It provides context about the recording sessions and decisions behind the shelving of these tracks. The book offers a fascinating glimpse into what might have been and the creative breadth of the King of Pop.

7. *Songwriting Secrets of Michael Jackson*

An in-depth look at Michael Jackson's songwriting techniques, this book uncovers the hidden aspects of his craft, including songs that remained unknown to the wider public. It features interviews, analyses, and rare insights into how Jackson constructed melodies and lyrics. The book is essential for understanding his genius beyond his performance.

8. *Michael Jackson: The Unsung Songwriter*

This book shines a light on Michael Jackson's role as a songwriter who often stayed behind the scenes. It covers songs credited to him that many fans and critics were unaware he had written. The narrative explores his influence on other artists through his songwriting prowess.

9. *The Outsider Tracks: Songs Michael Jackson Wrote but Didn't Sing*

Focusing on the fascinating side of Jackson's career, this book compiles songs he authored that were recorded and popularized by other artists. It discusses the reasons why Jackson chose not to perform these songs himself and how they fit into his legacy. The book provides a new perspective on his contributions to music beyond his own performances.

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