

The son of Southern Baptist sharecroppers, Cash began playing guitar and writing songs at age 12. During high school, he performed frequently on radio station KLCN in Blytheville, Arkansas. Cash moved to Detroit in his late teens and worked there until he joined the Air Force as a radio operator in Germany. He left the Air Force and married Vivian Liberto in 1954; the couple settled in Memphis, where Cash worked as an appliance salesman and attended radio announcers' school.

With the Tennessee Two—guitarist Luther Perkins and bassist Marshall Grant—he began recording for Sam Phillips' Sun Records. The trio recorded "Cry, Cry, Cry" (#14 C&W, 1955), and followed it with "Folsom Prison Blues" (#5 C&W, 1956). Later in 1956 came Cash's most enduring hit, the million-seller "I Walk the Line" (#17, 1956). At Sun, he was also part of an impromptu gospel singalong with labelmates Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins and Jerry Lee Lewis that was widely bootlegged as *The Million Dollar Quartet*.

Cash moved near Ventura, California, in 1958, signed with Columbia and began a nine-year period of alcohol and drug abuse. He churned out records, among them "Ring of Fire" (#1 pop, #1 C&W, 1963), written by June Carter of the Carter Family and Merle Kilgore. By then, he had left his family and moved to New York's Greenwich Village. Late in 1965, Cash was arrested by Customs officials for trying to smuggle amphetamines in his guitar case across the Mexican border. He got a suspended sentence and was fined. After a serious auto accident and a near fatal overdose, his wife divorced him. By then Cash had moved to Nashville, where he became friends with Waylon Jennings. Together they spent what both have described as a drug-crazed year and a half.

But in Nashville, Cash began a liaison with June Carter, who helped him get rid of his drug habit by 1967 and reconverted him to fundamentalist Christianity. By the time Cash and Carter married in early 1968, they had been working together regularly. They had hit duets with "Jackson" (#2 C&W, 1967) and a version of Tim Hardin's "If I Were a Carpenter" (#2 C&W, 1970).

Cash's 1968 live album, *At Folsom Prison*, became a million-seller in 1968. Bob Dylan invited him to sing a duet ("Girl from the North Country") and write liner notes for *Nashville Skyline*, and Dylan appeared in the first segment of ABC-TV's "The Johnny Cash Show" in June 1969. The series lasted two years. Cash had a 1969 hit with Shel Silverstein's "A Boy Named Sue" (#1), recorded live at San Quentin.

In 1970, Cash performed at the Nixon White House. He and June Carter traveled to Israel in 1971 to make a documentary, *Gospel Road*. Cash continued to tour and make hits through the Seventies, including "A Thing Called Love" (#2 C&W, 1972) and "One Piece at a Time" (#1 C&W, 1976). He has won six Grammy Awards and is a member of the Nashville Songwriters' Hall of Fame, with

over 400 songs to his credit. Cash has been active in benefit work, particularly for prisoners, Native American rights, and evangelist Billy Graham's organization.

Cash has also taken his place in the Carter Family music dynasty. His daughter by his first wife, Rosanne Cash, has emerged as a country hitmaker after starting out as a backup singer for Cash's road show; she is married to songwriter Rodney Crowell. June Carter's daughter by a previous marriage, Carlene Carter, also has a solo career and is married to Nick Lowe, who produced Johnny Cash's 1980 *Rockabilly Blues*. Cash and fellow surviving Million Dollar Quartet members Carl Perkins and Jerry Lee Lewis regrouped in 1982, five years after Elvis Presley's death, to record *The Survivors*.

ROSANNE CASH

Born May 24, 1955, Memphis

1980—*Right or Wrong* (Columbia) 1981—*Seven Year Ache* 1982—*Somewhere in the Stars*.

Daughter of country music star Johnny Cash and Vivian Liberto, and spouse since 1979 of singer/songwriter Rodney Crowell, Rosanne Cash blends Nashville and California country rock. Born in Memphis, Cash was raised in Ventura, California, where her mother moved after divorcing Cash in 1966. The day after graduating from high school, she joined her father's touring revue as a wardrobe assistant and later became a backup singer. After three years with the Johnny Cash show, she moved to London in 1976, returning home in 1977 to attend Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Then she moved to Hollywood and enrolled in the Lee Strasberg Theater Institute the next year. She took time off in January 1978 to record a demo (produced by Crowell), which attracted the attention of the German-based Ariola label. She went to Munich to record an album, and although it was never released in the U.S. it persuaded the Nashville branch of Columbia Records to sign her. For a while she played with Crowell's band, the Cherry Bombs, before Columbia released her debut U.S. album, *Right or Wrong*, which sold surprisingly well despite her inability to tour; she was pregnant. Her 1981 followup, *Seven Year Ache*, drew critical raves, solid sales, and yielded a country hit with the title tune.

DAVID CASSIDY

Born April 12, 1950, New York City or Englewood, New Jersey

N.A.—*David Cassidy* 1972—*Cherish* (Bell) 1974—*Cassidy Live* 1975—*The Higher They Climb* (RCA) 1976—*Home Is Where the Heart Is*.

Early-Seventies teen idol David Cassidy is the son of actor Jack Cassidy and actress Evelyn Ward. He moved to Hollywood in 1957 with his mother when his parents divorced. (His father then married actress Shirley Jones,

who played Cassidy's mother in "The Partridge Family.") During his teens, Cassidy was expelled from two public schools before completing high school at the private Rexford School. He played guitar and drums, wrote songs and acted with the Los Angeles Theater Group. He appeared in Allan Sherman's Broadway production *Fig Leaves Are Falling*, and on television episodes of "Bonanza" and "Marcus Welby, M.D."

In fall 1970, he began a three-year run as Keith Partridge on the weekly TV series "The Partridge Family" (inspired by the Cowsills). The Partridge Family's premiere single, "I Think I Love You" (released before the TV series debuted), sold nearly six million copies. Several hits followed. Cassidy received royalties from the sales of Partridge Family coloring books, lunch boxes, dolls, comic books, postcards, clothes, books, records and the show itself.

His solo recording career began in 1971 with a remake of the Association's "Cherish." His several world tours inspired mass hysteria; Cassidy began to tone down the teen idol role after a 14-year-old fan named Bernadette Wheeler suffered a fatal heart attack at a London show in May 1974. That year, he quit the TV series. He signed a long-term contract with RCA in February 1975.

Cassidy's subsequent efforts did little to establish credibility with more mature fans. He later returned to TV with his own dramatic cop series. In 1976, Cassidy and Mick Ronson cut a single entitled "Gettin' It On in the Streets" and were supposed to record an album and form a band. None of it ever came to pass. In 1982, he was reportedly recording a country-influenced album in Nashville.

SHAUN CASSIDY

Born September 27, 1958, Hollywood

1977—*Shaun Cassidy* (Warner Bros./Curb) *Born*

Late 1978—*Under Wraps* 1979—*Room Service*;

That's Rock 'n' Roll—*Shaun Cassidy Live* 1980—*Wasp*.

Following in the footsteps of his half-brother David Cassidy, Shaun Cassidy was a teen idol in the late Seventies. The son of actor Jack Cassidy and actress Shirley Jones, he grew up in Beverly Hills and formed his first rock band at age 11, just after he began writing his own songs. Signed by Mike Curb to the Warner/Curb label in 1975, Cassidy had his first success in Europe, where his photos saturated the teen magazines. His debut single—"Morning Girl," released in January 1976—went Top Twenty in most of Europe. His second single, a cover of Eric Carmen's "That's Rock 'n' Roll," expanded his appeal to Australia, and went gold in the U.S. in a later release.

He starred in "The Hardy Boys" TV series from 1977 to 1978. His first U.S. single, a cover of the Crystals' 1963 hit "Da Doo Ron Ron," was released in May 1977 and went gold; his simultaneously released debut album, *Shaun Cassidy*, went platinum. Success followed him into the early Eighties with singles ("Hey Deanie," his own "Holi-

day") and with platinum albums and television work (a made-for-TV movie, *Like Normal People*, in 1979; the 1980 series "Breaking Away"). Like brother David before him, Shaun tried with little success to make the transition to a more serious rock style; his 1980 *Wasp* was produced by Todd Rundgren and featured versions of songs by David Bowie, Ian Hunter, Peter Townshend (the Who) and David Byrne (Talking Heads).

JIMMY CASTOR

Born June 22, 1943, New York City

N.A.—*Hey LeRoy* (Smash) 1973—*Dimension 3*

(RCA) 1974—*The Everything Man* (Atlantic) 1975—

Super Sound (Atco) *Butt of Course* 1976—*E Man*

Groovin'.

Singer/songwriter/saxophonist Jimmy Castor is best known for "Troglydite (Cave Man)," a 1972 funk novelty hit, but his career stretches back to the Fifties. He assembled his first group, Jimmy Castor and the Juniors (Johnny Williams, Orton Graves, Al Casey, Jr.), around 1955. Their "I Promise to Remember" (a Castor original) was a modest New York hit in 1956, but later that year Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers' cover version was a national hit. When Lymon left the Teenagers for a solo career in 1957, Castor was one of several singers who took his place fronting the group. He also sang with the Teenchords.

After graduating from New York's High School of Music and Art, Castor dropped out of the music business to study accounting at City College of New York. He reentered the music business in 1962, when he played the sax on Dave "Baby" Cortez's Top Ten hit, "Rinky Dink." He then recorded solo for the Winley, Clown, Jet-Set and Decca labels before forming the Jimmy Castor Bunch (percussionist Leonard Friddle, Jr., bassist Douglas Gibson, guitarist Harry Jensen, drummer Robert Manigault and keyboardist Gerry Thomas) in the mid-Sixties. The Bunch recorded for Compass and Capitol before "Hey, Leroy, Your Mama's Callin' You" hit (#31 pop, 1967; #16 R&B, 1966) on Smash. "Troglydite" (RCA) hit #4 on the R&B charts and #6 on the pop charts in 1972. Castor left RCA for Atlantic and returned to the Top Twenty in 1975 with a sequel to "Troglydite," "The Bertha Butt Boogie" (#16 pop, #22 R&B). His other hits on Atlantic were "Potential" (#25 R&B, 1975), "King Kong, Part 1" (#23 R&B, 1975) and "Space Age" (#28 R&B, 1977). By 1980, he was recording for Long Distance Records.

CERRONE

Born 1952, St. Michel, France

1976—*Love in C Minor* (Cotillion) 1977—*Cerrone's Paradise*; *Cerrone 3: Supernature* 1978—*Cerrone IV: The Golden Touch*; *Brigade Mondaine* (Malligator) 1979—*Cerrone V: Angelina* (Atlantic) 1982—*Back Track* (Pavillion).