

# Elvis turns 90

## ... and still making an impact!



Since Elvis Presley's passing in 1977, his legacy has continued to flourish through posthumous album releases, Graceland's transformation into a major tourist attraction, and the enduring dedication of fan clubs worldwide.

## Music

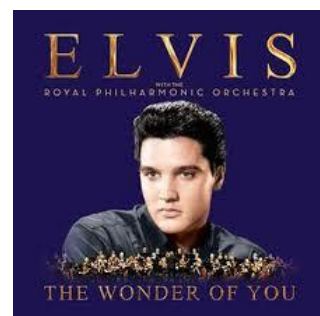
### Album Sales

- **Posthumous Releases:** Elvis's albums have consistently performed well on global charts. For instance, *ELVIS: 30 No. 1 Hits*, released in 2002, debuted at number one in 17 countries, including the US and the UK, and shipped 4.7 million units worldwide in its first week. In the United States, it was certified six times platinum by the RIAA, denoting shipments of six million units.
- **Cumulative Sales:** As of 2023, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) credits Elvis with 146.5 million certified album sales in the US, making him the third highest-selling artist in the country.

### Posthumous Album Releases and Sales

- **If I Can Dream (2015):** This album features Elvis's original vocals accompanied by new orchestral arrangements from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. It debuted at number one on the UK Albums Chart and has sold over 1.6 million copies worldwide.

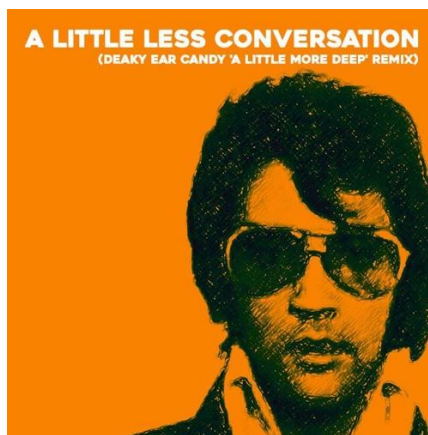
**The Wonder of You (2016):** A follow-up collaboration with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, this album also reached number one on the UK Albums Chart, making Elvis the solo artist with the most UK number-one albums at that time. As of September 2017, it had sold 800,000 copies worldwide.



- **The Classic Christmas Album:** This festive compilation has demonstrated enduring popularity, recently reaching number one on Billboard's Top Rock Albums chart.

### Single Sales

- **Physical Singles:** Elvis has sold over 135 million physical singles worldwide, reflecting his massive appeal during the vinyl era.
- **Digital Era:** In 2002, a remix of "A Little Less Conversation" became a global hit, introducing Elvis's music to a new generation and topping charts in multiple countries.



### Streaming and Digital Downloads

Elvis's music continues to be streamed extensively, with millions of plays across various platforms, indicating his relevance in the digital age. However, exact figures are not readily available.

### Global Impact

Elvis's music has a significant international presence, with substantial sales in countries like the United Kingdom, Germany, and Japan. For example, in the UK, *ELVIS: 30 No. 1 Hits* was certified seven times platinum, denoting shipments of 2.1 million units.



## Top-selling artists USA

As of 2023, according to the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), the top three highest-certified album artists in the United States are:

1. **The Beatles:** With 183 million certified album units, The Beatles hold the top position.
2. **Garth Brooks:** The country music icon has achieved 162 million certified album units, placing him second.
3. **Elvis Presley:** The King of Rock 'n' Roll ranks third with 146.5 million certified album units.

## Top-selling artists Worldwide

As of 2023, the top-selling music artists worldwide, based on estimated total record sales, are:

**The Beatles:** With estimated sales ranging from 500 million to 600 million records globally, The Beatles hold the top position.

**Michael Jackson:** The "King of Pop" has estimated global sales between 400 million and 500 million records.

**Elvis Presley:** Known as the "King of Rock 'n' Roll", Elvis Presley's estimated global sales are around 500 million records.

**Elton John:** The British singer-songwriter has estimated global sales between 250 million and 300 million records.

**Madonna:** Often referred to as the "Queen of Pop," Madonna's estimated global sales are between 250 million and 300 million records.

**Queen:** The British rock band's estimated global sales range from 250 million to 300 million records.

**Led Zeppelin:** The iconic rock band's estimated global sales are between 200 million and 300 million records.

**Rihanna:** The Barbadian singer has achieved estimated global sales between 230 million and 250 million records.

**Pink Floyd:** The progressive rock band's estimated global sales are between 200 million and 250 million records.

**The Rolling Stones:** The legendary rock band's estimated global sales range from 200 million to 250 million records.

# Graceland

Graceland, Elvis's Memphis mansion, opened to the public on June 7, 1982. On its first day, it sold out all 3,024 tickets, quickly recouping the initial investment.

In 1991, Graceland was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, Graceland attracts approximately 600,000 visitors annually, contributing an estimated \$150 million per year to Memphis's economy.

The estate has undergone various improvements to enhance the visitor experience, including the addition of museums, exhibits, and the "Elvis Presley's Memphis" entertainment complex.

Graceland (as a tourist destination) is owned by EPE (Elvis Presley Enterprises). Lisa Marie Presley's estate retains a 15% ownership in the company and she continued to be involved until her 2023 death. Her mother Priscilla Presley is also actively involved in the company. Lisa Marie's estate retains sole ownership of the mansion itself, as well as her father's personal effects. Her assets are to be inherited by her three daughters.



## Fan Clubs

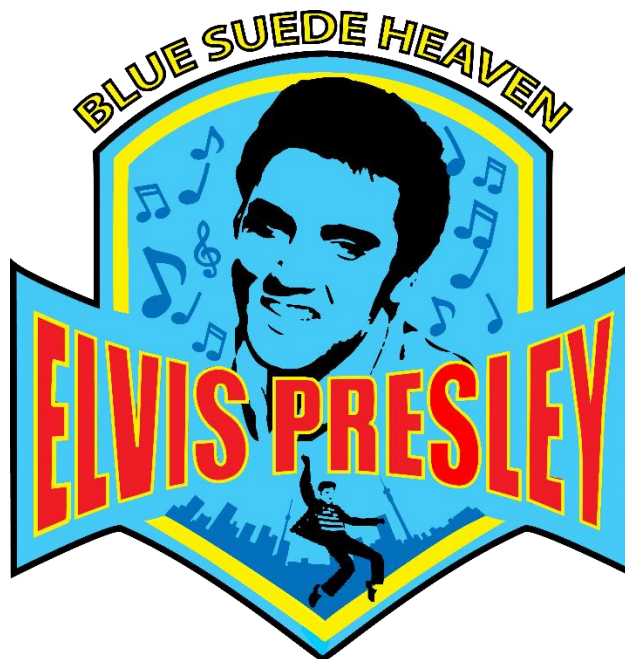
Elvis Presley fan clubs continue to operate worldwide, engaging in charitable activities that reflect Elvis's generous spirit. For instance, the "Always Elvis Fan Club" has supported organisations like Dream Come True and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, donating amounts such as \$1,500 and \$1,000, respectively.

**Number of Fan Clubs:** As of March 2000, there were over 613 active Elvis Presley fan clubs worldwide, with a total membership of 510,489.

**Membership Growth:** By 2002, the number of fan clubs had increased to 620, up from 450 clubs five years earlier.

Additionally, the Elvis Presley Charitable Foundation (EPCF) supports various charitable organisations, focusing on arts, education, and children's programs. The foundation operates with all funds directed toward charitable donations, as administrative expenses are underwritten by Elvis Presley Enterprises.

As the **Blue Suede Heaven fan club**, we have donated in excess of R150 000 (\$10 000) to charities in the region.



In summary, Elvis Presley's legacy has not only persisted but has also grown in the decades following his death, through successful album releases, the transformation of Graceland into a major tourist destination, the charitable endeavours of fan clubs, and ongoing cultural relevance.