Early Life and Blindness: Stevie Wonder was born Stevland Hardaway Judkins on May 13, 1950, in Saginaw, Michigan. Due to receiving too much oxygen in the incubator as a premature baby, he developed retinopathy of prematurity, a condition that led to his blindness.

Musical Prodigy: Wonder displayed a talent for music from a very young age, mastering piano, harmonica, and drums by the age of 9. His early proficiency and musicality were apparent, setting the stage for his career. He was signed to Motown's Tamla label at the age of 11 and had his first major hit, "Fingertips (Pt. 2)," at just 13 years old.

Pioneering in Sound: Stevie Wonder was instrumental in bringing the synthesizer to the forefront of popular music. His albums in the 1970s, particularly "Talking Book," "Innervisions," and "Songs in the Key of Life," are noted for their innovative use of electronic instruments and have been influential across multiple genres.

Activism Through Music: Throughout his career, Wonder has used his music to convey messages of love, social justice, and equality. His 1976 song "Black Man" celebrated the achievements of African Americans and other minorities, while "Living for the City" provided commentary on systemic racism and urban poverty.

Grammy Awards and Achievements: Stevie Wonder has won 25 Grammy Awards, one of the most awarded male solo artists, and received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. His album "Songs in the Key of Life" is often listed among the greatest albums in music history.

Musical Range: Wonder's repertoire includes a wide range of musical styles, including soul, pop, funk, R&B, and jazz. His fluidity across these genres has not only defined his own career but also helped shape the development of popular music in general.

Humanitarian Efforts: Beyond music, Wonder has been a humanitarian and social activist. He was instrumental in the campaign to make Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a national holiday in the United States, highlighted by his song "Happy Birthday" from the album "Hotter than July."

Oscar Winner: In 1984, Stevie Wonder won an Academy Award for Best Original Song for "I Just Called to Say I Love You" from the film "The Woman in Red." This marked a high point in his career, showcasing his talents as a songwriter on a global stage.

UN Messenger of Peace: In recognition of his work with civil and human rights issues, Wonder was named a United Nations Messenger of Peace in 2009, with a special focus on persons with disabilities.

Continued Influence: Stevie Wonder's influence can be heard in the work of artists across various genres. He's been sampled in hip-hop, praised in rock, and covered in soul and jazz. His commitment to music as a vehicle for change and celebration is seen in his consistent involvement in political and humanitarian causes.