

Billie Eilish

Billie Eilish Pirate Baird O'Connell (born December 18, 2001) is a Grammy-winning American singer-songwriter known for dark, genre-blending pop. Born and raised in Los Angeles by actor parents Maggie Baird and Patrick O'Connell, she grew up in a creative, music-oriented household biography.com . Homeschooled in Highland Park, Eilish began music early – she learned ukulele at age 6 and joined the Los Angeles Children's Chorus at 8 biography.com . By age 11 she was writing original songs with her older brother Finneas (now her principal producer), often drawing on personal experiences (her first "real" song was inspired by *The Walking Dead* TV show) biography.com . Early influences included Beatles melodies (her first learned song was The Beatles' "I Will" biography.com) and pop trends she observed in peers; she has cited Justin Bieber's early work as formative. These family and musical roots set the stage for her breakout as a teen prodigy.

Career Timeline and Key Milestones

- **2015** – At age 13, Eilish uploaded her song "**Ocean Eyes**" (written and produced by Finneas) to SoundCloud. It became a viral hit, rapidly gaining millions of streams and launching her career biography.com .
- **2016** – The single "*Six Feet Under*" (June 2016) and others followed. In August 2016 she signed with Darkroom/Interscope Records, which re-released "*Ocean Eyes*" and additional tracks biography.com .
- **2017** – Released debut EP ***Don't Smile at Me*** (August). Nearly all tracks were written/produced with Finneas. The EP spawned singles like "*Bellyache*," "*Idontwannabeyouanymore*," etc., and peaked at #14 on the US Billboard 200 biography.com . At this time she also became the youngest artist to reach 1 billion streams on Spotify biography.com .
- **2019** – Debut studio album ***When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?*** (March 2019) became a global smash. It included hits "*Bad Guy*," "*You Should See Me in a Crown*," and "*Bury a Friend*" biography.com . She won year-end awards (MTV, AMA, Billboard Woman of the Year 2019) and made history at the 2020 Grammys: as an 18-year-old, she became the first woman (and second artist ever) to sweep the "Big Four" general-field Grammy Awards (Album, Record, Song of the Year, and Best New Artist) grammy.com .

- **2020** – Wrote and recorded the James Bond theme *"No Time to Die."* At 18 she was the youngest artist ever to do so [biography.com](#) . The song later earned her a 2022 Academy Award and Golden Globe for Best Original Song (and a Grammy).
- **2021** – Released second album ***Happier Than Ever*** (July 2021), which debuted at #1 in multiple countries [biography.com](#) . It featured singles *"My Future," "Therefore I Am," "Your Power,"* and *"Lost Cause."* In September she released a concert film ***Happier Than Ever: A Love Letter to Los Angeles***. The album earned several Grammy nominations and wins (including Best Engineered Album, Non-Classical).
- **2022** – Won her first Oscar (Best Original Song) at the 94th Academy Awards for *"No Time to Die."* She also co-wrote, but did not sing, *"Nobody Like U"* for Pixar's *Turning Red* (Feb 2022). In July she released *"What Was I Made For?"* for the film *Barbie*.
- **2023** – *"What Was I Made For?"* won both the Golden Globe and another Oscar (Best Original Song) at the 2023 awards, along with two Grammys [apnews.com](#) . At age 22 she became the youngest person ever to win two Academy Awards [apnews.com](#) .
- **2024** – Announced and released her third album ***HIT ME HARD AND SOFT*** (May 17) [grammy.com](#) . Lead singles *"Birds of a Feather"* and *"Lunch"* became international hits [biography.com](#) . She launched the *Hit Me Hard and Soft: The Tour*, which kicked off Sept. 29, 2024 in Quebec and continues through mid-2025 across North America, Australia and Europe [grammy.com](#) .

Artistic Style and Evolution

Eilish's music is known for blending pop, electronic, hip-hop and indie elements with a dark, introspective tone. Early in her career critics noted her "gothic-horror aesthetic and a fearsome melodic flair," as she juxtaposed soft, whispered vocals against sharp beats and eerie production [theguardian.com](#) . Her debut album was praised as "dark, adventurous, [and] eclectic" [theguardian.com](#) , exploring teenage anxieties and taboos (e.g. drug use in "Xanny," mortality in "Bury a Friend"). She often co-produces tracks with Finneas in their home studio, emphasizing creative independence. As she's matured, her sound has broadened: *Happier Than Ever* ranged from smoky R&B ballads ("I Didn't Change My Number") to pop-punk energy ("NDA"), showcasing lyrical vulnerability and musical growth. By the third album, she continued to push boundaries, incorporating orchestral swells and intimate acoustic moments alongside polished pop. Throughout, her work remains singular – critics note that she serves as "an auteur" in pop, largely self-authoring her image and music [theguardian.com](#) .

Major Awards, Recognitions, and Records

Eilish has broken numerous records and amassed many awards. Notably:

- **Grammy Awards:** She has won **9 Grammys** out of 32 nominations [biography.com](https://www.biography.com/music/eilish) . At the 2020 ceremony she became the first woman to win **Album of the Year, Record of the Year, Song of the Year, and Best New Artist** in a single night [grammy.com](https://www.grammy.com/artists/eilish) .
- **Academy Awards:** She has won **2 Oscars** (Best Original Song) for *"No Time to Die"* (2022) and *"What Was I Made For?"* (2024) [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com/story/entertainment/celebrity/2024/03/11/eilish-oscar-win) . These wins made her the youngest person ever to earn two Oscars [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com/story/entertainment/celebrity/2024/03/11/eilish-oscar-win) .
- **Golden Globes:** She won **2 Golden Globes** for the same songs (*"No Time to Die"*, *"What Was I Made For?"*).
- **Other Honors:** Eilish is a multiple-time MTV Video Music and American Music Award winner. In 2019 she was named Billboard's **Woman of the Year**. She also holds several Guinness World Records – for example, in 2019 she became the first female artist to have **multiple simultaneous Hot 100** hits, and the youngest female at **#1 on the UK Albums Chart** with her debut [en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eilish_Pelkey) . She was the first artist born in the 21st century to top the Billboard Hot 100 (*"Bad Guy"*, 2019).

Cultural and Fashion Influence

Eilish's impact extends into fashion and youth culture. She popularized a distinctive, genderless streetwear style characterized by neon colors, bold prints and *ultra*-oversized silhouettes [vogue.com](https://www.vogue.com/story/eilish) . She has spoken candidly about her body image and style choices – for years she wore baggy clothing "because of my body" [vogue.com](https://www.vogue.com/story/eilish) – and only more recently began experimenting with more traditionally feminine or fitted couture (for example, a Simone Rocha dress or a Marilyn Monroe-inspired look at the Met Gala [vogue.com](https://www.vogue.com/story/eilish)). This fashion evolution was covered widely in the media, with Vogue noting that she "has always had a singular fashion sense" [vogue.com](https://www.vogue.com/story/eilish) and does everything on her own terms [vogue.com](https://www.vogue.com/story/eilish) .

Her public image is that of an authentic voice for Gen Z: media often note her blunt honesty and sense of humor. Despite her huge fame (over 120 million Instagram followers), Eilish describes herself as private – she quips that the public "literally" knows "**nothing**" about her true self [people.com](https://www.people.com/story/eilish) . She has used interviews and social media sparingly but effectively, carefully curating an image that resonates with young fans. Paparazzi photos of her in cartoons and skatewear in early years gave way to more high-fashion red-carpet looks as her

status grew, reflecting a maturation that her fans and the press have tracked closely vogue.com. In all cases, commentators emphasize that **she always does it her way** – comfortable as much in Gucci as in baggy shorts vogue.com – reinforcing her reputation as a rule-breaking style icon.

Collaborations and Creative Partnerships

Billie's most important creative partner is her brother and producer Finneas O'Connell. Finneas co-wrote and produced nearly all her music, often working side-by-side in his bedroom studio: as he put it, "75–80% of the songs are written with us sitting next to each other at a piano or with a guitar, singing a melody together" biography.com. This sibling team has been the core of her artistic process. Beyond Finneas, she has collaborated with a few notable artists: in 2018 she sang "Lovely" with Khalid for the *13 Reasons Why* soundtrack biography.com, and in 2022 she was featured on Charli XCX's song "Guess" biography.com. She has also contributed music to films (e.g. Disney's *Turning Red*, James Bond) as both writer and performer. Overall, her career has been unusually self-contained, with very few outside producers or co-writers – an arrangement that has underscored her image as an independent auteur in pop music.

Advocacy, Personal Beliefs, and Causes

Eilish is a vocal advocate on several issues important to her generation. **Animal rights and environmentalism** are foremost: she is a longtime vegetarian (since childhood) and turned vegan in 2014 for ethical and climate reasons biography.com. In interviews she has said she "can't go on in my life knowing what's going on in the animal world and not doing anything about it" vox.com. She uses her platform to promote vegan living – for example, ensuring **plant-based meals are available** at all her concerts and even creating a Nike sneaker made from vegan leather vox.com. In 2021 she used her cover story for *Vogue* to spotlight climate activists, inviting young organizers into the photoshoot to **highlight environmental issues** globalcitizen.org. She has demanded sustainable practices in fashion (pushing designer Oscar de la Renta to stop using fur) vox.com and works to make eco-friendly choices more accessible to fans.

Eilish also speaks openly about **mental health**. She partnered with the Ad Council on a 2019 PSA urging friends to "check in" on each other, reminding youth that "it doesn't make you weak to ask for help" grammy.com. Her songs often address depression and anxiety, a choice she

defends as comforting to listeners (“Kids use my songs as a hug,” she told *Rolling Stone* [grammy.com](#)). She has shared her own struggles (including Tourette syndrome and past depression) to destigmatize them.

On social issues, Eilish encourages civic engagement. A long-time self-described liberal, she performed at the 2020 Democratic National Convention and urged fans to **vote “like our lives and our world depend on it”** [biography.com](#). She has also advocated for youth voting registration (partnering in 2018 with L.A. officials to register high-schoolers) and hasn’t shied from expressing her political opinions onstage and online. In all these arenas, she represents a conscientious “Gen Z” stance – blending music stardom with activism on climate, animal welfare, mental health and voting rights [globalcitizen.org](#) [grammy.com](#).

Recent Projects and Tours (2024–2025)

In 2024 Eilish continued to build on her success. Her third album, ***Hit Me Hard and Soft***, was released May 17, 2024 [grammy.com](#). The record, co-produced with Finneas, received strong reviews for its mature songwriting. It yielded charting singles like “*Birds of a Feather*” and “*Lunch*” (both reached the US and UK Top 10) [biography.com](#). In promotion, she surprised fans with cryptic billboards and social-media teasers, boosting her already massive Instagram following from ~110 million to over 120 million in days [grammy.com](#).

Alongside the album, Eilish launched the *Hit Me Hard and Soft: The Tour*. The North American leg began September 29, 2024 in Quebec City, ran through December (coinciding with her 23rd birthday), and the tour resumes in February 2025 with dates in Australia, Europe and the UK [grammy.com](#). Her live shows continue to be major events, often selling out arenas worldwide.

Looking ahead into 2025, Billie remains one of the most influential young artists. She has hinted in interviews at writing for film and possibly expanding into other creative fields (e.g. fashion or acting), and she maintains a high profile in media – recently gracing the covers of *Vogue* and other magazines, and even releasing a line of fragrances. With her chart success, global tours, and continued awards recognition (including Grammy nominations for *Hit Me Hard and Soft*), she remains at the forefront of pop culture in 2025.

Sources: Authoritative profiles, interviews and award announcements were used, including *Grammy.com* (Grammy history), *AP News*, *People*, *Vogue*, *The Guardian*, and *Biography.com*

[grammy.com](#) [apnews.com](#) [vogue.com](#) [vox.com](#) [grammy.com](#) [biography.com](#), among others, to compile this overview.

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