

= Gwen Stefani =

Gwen Renée Stefani ( / st??f??ni / ; born October 3 , 1969 ) is an American singer , songwriter , fashion designer , and actress . She is the co @-@ founder and lead vocalist of the rock band No Doubt . During the band 's hiatus , Stefani embarked on a solo career in 2004 by releasing her debut studio album *Love . Angel . Music . Baby .* Inspired by pop music from the 1980s , the album was met with both critical and commercial success . It spawned three major worldwide hit singles : " What You Waiting For ? , " " Rich Girl , " and " Hollaback Girl , " the latter becoming the first US download to sell one million copies . In 2006 Stefani released her second studio album *The Sweet Escape* . The album produced two successful singles : " Wind It Up " and the album 's title track " The Sweet Escape . " Including her work with No Doubt , Stefani has sold more than 30 million albums worldwide . Her third solo album *This Is What the Truth Feels Like* was released in March 2016 and became her first solo number one album on the Billboard 200 .

Stefani has won three Grammy Awards . As a solo artist , she has received several accolades , including a World Music Award , an American Music Award , a Brit Award , and two Billboard Music Awards . In 2003 , she debuted her clothing line L.A.M.B. and expanded her collection with the 2005 Harajuku Lovers line , drawing inspiration from Japanese culture and fashion . Stefani performs and makes public appearances with four back @-@ up dancers known as the Harajuku Girls . She was married to British musician Gavin Rossdale from 2002 to 2015 and they have three sons . Billboard magazine ranked Stefani the 54th most successful artist and 37th most successful Hot 100 artist of the 2000 ? 09 decade . VH1 ranked her 13th on their " 100 Greatest Women in Music " list in 2012 .

= = Early life = =

Stefani was born on October 3 , 1969 , in Fullerton , California , and raised Roman Catholic in Anaheim , California . She was named after a stewardess in the 1968 novel *Airport* , and her middle name , Renée , comes from The Four Tops ' 1968 cover of The Left Banke 's 1966 hit song " Walk Away Renée " . Her father , Dennis Stefani , is Italian American and worked as a Yamaha marketing executive . Her mother is Patti ( née Flynn ) . descent , and worked as an accountant before becoming a housewife . Gwen 's parents were fans of folk music and exposed her to music by artists like Bob Dylan and Emmylou Harris . She is the second oldest of four children : she has a younger sister , Jill ; a younger brother , Todd ; and an older brother , Eric . Eric was the keyboardist for No Doubt , but left the band to pursue a career in animation on *The Simpsons* .

= = Career = =

= = = 1986 ? 2004 : No Doubt = = =

Her brother Eric introduced Gwen to 2 Tone music by Madness and The Selecter , and in 1986 , he invited her to provide vocals for No Doubt , a ska band he was forming . Finally , in 1991 , the band was signed to Interscope Records . The band released its self @-@ titled debut album in 1992 , but its ska @-@ pop sound was unsuccessful due to the popularity of grunge . Before the mainstream success of both No Doubt and Sublime , Stefani contributed guest vocals to " Saw Red " on Sublime 's 1994 album *Robbin ' the Hood* . Stefani rejected the aggressiveness of female grunge artists and cited Blondie singer Debbie Harry 's combination of power and sex appeal as a major influence . No Doubt 's third album , *Tragic Kingdom* ( 1995 ) , which followed the self @-@ released *The Beacon Street Collection* ( 1995 ) , took more than three years to make . Five singles were released from *Tragic Kingdom* , including " Don 't Speak , " which led the Hot 100 Airplay year @-@ end chart of 1997 . Stefani left college for one semester to tour for *Tragic Kingdom* but did not return when touring lasted two and a half years . The album sold more than 16 million copies worldwide , and received several Grammy Award nominations in 1997 and 1998 . In late 2000 , Rolling Stone magazine named her " The Queen of Confessional Pop . "

During the time when No Doubt was receiving mainstream success , Stefani collaborated on the singles " You 're the Boss " with the Brian Setzer Orchestra , " South Side " with Moby , and " Let Me Blow Ya Mind " with Eve . No Doubt released the less popular Return of Saturn in 2000 , which expanded upon the new wave influences of Tragic Kingdom . Most of the lyrical content focused on Stefani 's often rocky relationship with then @-@ Bush frontman Gavin Rossdale and her overall insecurities , including indecision on settling down and having a child . The band 's 2001 album , Rock Steady , explored more reggae and dancehall sounds , while maintaining the band 's new wave influences , and generally received positive reviews . The album generated career @-@ highest singles chart positions in the United States , and " Hey Baby " and " Underneath It All " received Grammy Awards . A greatest hits collection , The Singles 1992 ? 2003 , which includes a cover of Talk Talk 's " It 's My Life " , was released in 2003 to moderate sales . In 2002 , Eve and Stefani won a Grammy Award for Best Rap / Sung Collaboration for " Let Me Blow Ya Mind " .

= = = 2004 ? 06 : Love . Angel . Music . Baby. and acting debut = = =

Stefani 's debut solo album Love . Angel . Music . Baby. was released in November 2004 . The album features a large number of collaborations with producers and other artists , including Tony Kanal , Tom Rothrock , Linda Perry , André 3000 , Nellee Hooper , The Neptunes and New Order . Stefani created the album to modernize the music to which she listened when in high school , and L.A.M.B. takes influence from a variety of music styles of the 1980s and early 1990s such as new wave , synthpop and electro . Stefani 's decision to use her solo career as an opportunity to delve further into pop music instead of trying " to convince the world of [ her ] talent , depth and artistic worth " was considered unusual . As a result , reviews of the album were mixed , and it was described as " fun as hell but [ ... ] not exactly rife with subversive social commentary . " The album debuted on the US Billboard 200 albums chart at number seven , selling 309 @,@ 000 copies in its first week . L.A.M.B. was a commercial success reaching multi @-@ platinum status in the United States , the United Kingdom , Australia , and Canada . At the 2005 Grammy Awards , Stefani was nominated for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for " What You Waiting For ? " , and at the next year 's awards , Stefani received five nominations for Album of the Year , Record of the Year , Best Female Pop Vocal Performance , Best Pop Vocal Album , and Best Rap / Sung Collaboration .

The first single released from the album was " What You Waiting For ? " , which debuted atop the ARIA Singles Chart , charted at number 47 on the US and reached the top ten on most other charts . The song served to explain why Stefani produced a solo album and discusses her fears in leaving No Doubt for a solo career as well as her desire to have a baby . " Rich Girl " was released as the album 's second single . A duet with rapper Eve , and produced by Dr. Dre , it is an adaptation of a 1990s pop song by British musicians Louchie Lou & Michie One , which itself is a very loose cover lyrically but closer melodically of " If I Were a Rich Man " , from the musical Fiddler on the Roof . " Rich Girl " proved successful on several formats , and reached the US and UK top ten . The album's third single " Hollaback Girl " became Stefani 's first US and second Australian number @-@ one single ; it reached top ten elsewhere . The song was the first US music download to sell more than one million copies , and its brass @-@ driven composition remained popular throughout 2005 . The fourth single " Cool " was released shortly following the popularity of its predecessor , reaching the top 20 in US and UK . The song 's lyrics and its accompanying music video , filmed in Lake Como , Italy , depict Stefani 's former relationship with Kanal . " Luxurious " was released as the album 's fifth single , but did not perform as well as its predecessors . " Crash " was released in early 2006 as the album 's sixth single in lieu of Love . Angel . Music . Baby . ' s sequel , which Stefani postponed because of her pregnancy .

In 2004 , Stefani showed interest in making film appearances and began auditioning for films such as Mr. & Mrs. Smith . She made her acting debut playing Jean Harlow in Martin Scorsese 's The Aviator in 2004 . Scorsese , whose daughter was a No Doubt fan , showed reciprocal interest in casting Stefani after seeing her picture from a Marilyn Monroe @-@ inspired photo shoot for Teen Vogue in 2003 . To prepare for the role , Stefani read two biographies and watched 18 of Harlow 's films . Shooting her part took four to five days , and Stefani had few lines . Stefani lent her voice to

the title character of the 2004 video game Malice ; before completion , however , the company opted not to use No Doubt band members ' voices .

= = = 2006 ? 08 : The Sweet Escape = = =

Stefani 's second studio album , The Sweet Escape , was recorded by Guy Charbonneau 's Le Mobile Remote Recording Studio and released in December 2006 . Stefani recollaborated with Kanal , Perry , and The Neptunes , along with Akon and Tim Rice @-@ Oxley from English rock band Keane . The album focuses more heavily on electronic and dance music for clubs than its predecessor . Stefani commented that it differed from L.A.M.B. because " I just wasn 't inspired to do another album and ... I was a lot more relaxed making it . " Its release coincided with the DVD release of Stefani 's first tour , entitled Harajuku Lovers Live . The album received mixed reviews by critics , who found that it " has a surprisingly moody , lightly autobiographical feel ... [ but ] Stefani isn 't convincing as a dissatisfied diva " and called the album a " hasty return " that repeats Love . Angel . Music . Baby. with less energy .

" Wind It Up " , the album 's lead single , received mixed reviews by critics for its use of yodeling and an interpolation of The Sound of Music , but was moderately successful , peaking inside the top 10 in the US and the UK . The title track was well received and was a major hit , reaching the top 10 in over 15 nations , including number two peaks in the US , Australia and the UK . To promote The Sweet Escape , Stefani was a mentor on the sixth season of American Idol and performed the song with Akon . The song earned her a Grammy Award nomination for Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals . Three more singles were released from the album ; " 4 in the Morning " , " Now That You Got It " which featured Damian Marley and " Early Winter " . To promote the album , Stefani embarked on a worldwide tour , The Sweet Escape Tour , which covered North America , Europe , Asia and the Pacific and part of Latin America . In an interview with Entertainment Weekly on June 6 , 2011 , Stefani stated that she had no plans to continue work as a solo artist , adding , " That was a moment in time [ ... ] It went on a little longer than we all thought it would , because it was inspired and you have to go with wherever you 're at in that time in your life ... [ But ] everything works out how it should . "

= = = 2008 ? 13 : Return to No Doubt = = =

With Stefani promoting The Sweet Escape , No Doubt began work on a new album without her and planned to complete it after Stefani 's The Sweet Escape Tour was finished . In March 2008 , the band started making posts concerning the progression of the album on their official fan forum . Stefani made a post on March 28 , 2008 stating that songwriting had commenced but was slow on her end because she was , at the time , pregnant with her second child . The Singles 1992 ? 2003 became available on December 9 , 2008 for the video game Rock Band 2 . Adrian Young played drums on Scott Weiland 's album " Happy " in Galoshes . No Doubt announced on their official website they wanted to tour in 2009 while finishing their upcoming album , which was set for release in 2010 . On November 24 , 2008 , it was announced that No Doubt would be headlining the Bamboozle 2009 festival in May , along with Fall Out Boy . The band completed a national tour in the summer of 2009 . In 2010 , they resumed writing their record , which was later recorded in 2011 .

On June 11 , 2012 , the band announced on their official website that the new album would be out on September 25 , preceded by the first single in July 16 . The album was titled Push and Shove and the first single was a song called " Settle Down " . The music video for " Settle Down " was directed by Sophie Muller ( who has previously directed numerous music videos for No Doubt ) . Also around this time No Doubt were guest mentors for the UK version of the X Factor . " Settle Down " peaked at 34 on the Billboard Hot 100 with the album peaking at number three on the US Billboard 200 . On November 3 , 2012 , the band pulled its music video " Looking Hot " from the Internet after receiving complaints that it was insensitive towards Native Americans . In October 2013 , Tom revealed on social networking site Twitter that the band were once again on hiatus , also

hinting that the band would regroup in 2014 .

= = = 2014 ? present : The Voice and This Is What the Truth Feels Like = = =

On April 12 , 2014 , Stefani made a surprise appearance at the Coachella festival , where she joined Pharrell Williams onstage during his set to perform " Hollaback Girl " . She and Williams were coaches for season 7 of The Voice . After nine years since the last time , she attended the 2014 MTV Video Music Awards , and during an interview on the red carpet she said , " I didn 't know I was gonna have a baby , I didn 't know I was gonna be on The Voice , I didn 't know I was gonna be writing new music , so I 'm just like , what 's gonna be next ? " . Stefani appears as a featured artist on " My Heart Is Open " , co @-@ written by Sia Furler , from Maroon 5 's V , which was performed for the first time with Adam Levine and an orchestra at the 2015 Grammy Awards . Gwen also appeared on " Together " , from Calvin Harris ' Motion . Both albums were released in 2014 . A collaboration with Snoop Dogg , entitled " Run Away " , was released on his 2015 studio album , Bush .

On September 8 , 2014 , Stefani told MTV News during New York Fashion Week that she was working on both a No Doubt album and a solo album . She also revealed that she was working with Williams . Stefani released her comeback single " Baby Don 't Lie " on October 20 , 2014 , co @-@ written with producers Ryan Tedder , Benny Blanco , and Noel Zancanella . Billboard magazine revealed that her third studio album was set to be released in December and Benny Blanco is set to executive produce it . In late October , a sneak peek of a new track from Stefani 's third album , named " Spark the Fire " , was premiered . The song was produced by Pharrell Williams . On November 23 , the full song was uploaded online and was made available for download on December 1 . Both " Baby Don 't Lie " and " Spark the Fire " were later scrapped from Stefanis third album . On January 13 , 2015 , Stefani and Williams also recorded a song titled " Shine " , for the Paddington soundtrack . Stefani and Sia Furler worked together on a ballad , called " Start a War " that is expected to be released on Stefani 's third studio album as well . On July 10 , 2015 , American rapper Eminem featured Stefani on his single " Kings Never Die " , from the Southpaw soundtrack . The track debuted and peaked at # 80 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart .

On October 17 , 2015 , Stefani performed a one @-@ night concert at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York City , where she performed a new song , reportedly about her breakup with ex @-@ husband Gavin Rossdale , titled " Used to Love You " . It was released as a download on October 20 , 2015 . The video was released later that same day . The song was released to Mainstream radio in the U.S. on October 27 , 2015 . The track is the first official single off her third solo album This Is What the Truth Feels Like , which she has been working on since summer 2015 . Stefani said much of the previous material she worked on in 2014 felt forced and inauthentic , while the songs written since she returned to the studio in June 2015 were more natural and better described where she was in her life . The album 's second single , " Make Me Like You " , was released on February 12 , 2016 . This Is What the Truth Feels Like was released on March 18 , 2015 and debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 , it was Stefanis first number one album in the US as a solo artist . To further promote the album , Stefani will embark on her This Is What the Truth Feels Like Tour with rapper Eve in the United States .

= = Other ventures = =

Stefani made most of the clothing that she wore on stage with No Doubt , resulting in increasingly eclectic combinations . Stylist Andrea Lieberman introduced her to haute couture clothing , which led to Stefani launching a fashion line named L.A.M.B. in 2004 . The line takes influence from a variety of fashions , including Guatemalan , Japanese , and Jamaican styles . The line achieved popularity among celebrities and is worn by stars such as Teri Hatcher , Nicole Kidman , and Stefani herself . In June 2005 , she expanded her collection with the less expensive Harajuku Lovers line , which she referred to as " a glorified merchandise line " , with varied products including a camera , mobile phone charms , and undergarments . In late 2006 , Stefani released a limited edition line of dolls

called " Love . Angel . Music . Baby . Fashion dolls " . The dolls are inspired by the various fashion that Stefani and the Harajuku Girls wore while touring for the album .

In 2014 , Stefani announced she is producing an animated series about her and the Harajuku Girls . Along with Vision Animation and Moody Street Kids , Stefani has helped create the show which features her , Love , Angel , Music , and Baby as the band , HJ5 , who fight evil whilst trying to pursue their music career . Mattel have signed on as the global toy licensee . Kuukuu Harajuku will be distributed worldwide by DHX Media .

In late summer 2007 , Stefani launched a perfume , L , as a part of her L.A.M.B. collection of clothing and accessories . The perfume has high notes of sweet pea and rose . In September 2008 , Stefani released a fragrance line as a part of her Harajuku Lovers product line . There are five different fragrances based on the four Harajuku Girls and Stefani herself called Love , Lil ' Angel , Music , Baby and G ( Gwen ) . As of January 2011 , Stefani has become the spokesperson for L 'Oréal Paris .

= = Personal life = =

Soon after Stefani joined No Doubt , she and bandmate Tony Kanal began dating . Stefani stated that she was heavily invested in the relationship , commenting that " ... all I ever did was look at Tony and pray that God would let me have a baby with him . " During this time , the band almost split up because of the failed romantic relationship between Stefani and Kanal . Kanal ended the relationship . Their break @-@ up inspired Stefani lyrically , and many of the album 's songs , such as " Don 't Speak " , " Sunday Morning " , and " Hey You " , chronicle the ups and downs of their relationship .

During mid @-@ 1995 , No Doubt and rock band Goo Goo Dolls went on tour opening for alternative rock band Bush . Stefani met Bush guitarist and lead singer Gavin Rossdale . They married on September 14 , 2002 , with a wedding in St Paul 's , Covent Garden , London . A second wedding was held in Los Angeles two weeks later . According to Stefani , it was held so that she could wear her custom @-@ designed wedding dress by John Galliano twice .

Stefani has three sons with Rossdale ; Kingston James McGregor Rossdale born on May 26 , 2006 , Zuma Nesta Rock Rossdale born on August 21 , 2008 , and Apollo Bowie Flynn Rossdale born February 28 , 2014 . On August 3 , 2015 , Stefani filed for divorce from Rossdale , citing " irreconcilable differences " . The divorce was finalized in October 2015 . On November 4 , 2015 , Stefani and her The Voice co @-@ star , country music artist Blake Shelton , announced that they were dating .

= = Artistry = =

Stefani possesses a mezzo @-@ soprano , which can span three octaves . Stefani 's unusual and dynamic vocals have been noted for their " deep vibrato " and Stefani has been described as having a " unique vocal prowess " . The Chicago Tribune stated that Stefani had a " brash alto . " In the single " Cool " , her vocal range covers around one and a half octaves . Kelefa Sanneh of The New York Times joked that as Stefani grew as a musician , she kicked her " addiction " to vibrato . Stefani received five nominations at the 2006 Grammy Awards , including Best Female Pop Vocal Performance and Best Pop Vocal Album .

Stefani 's debut album Love . Angel . Music . Baby. took influence from a variety of 1980s genres Which included electropop , new wave , dance @-@ rock , hip hop , R & B , soul , and disco music . Stefani cited early Madonna , Lisa Lisa , Club Nouveau , Depeche Mode , Prince , New Order and The Cure as major influences for the album . Her second studio album The Sweet Escape resembles musically its predecessor while exploring more modern pop sounds , dabbling heavily into genres such as dance @-@ pop , electropop , and rap .

Stefani 's work has influenced a number of new artists including Best Coast , Hayley Williams , Rihanna , Katy Perry , Marina and the Diamonds , Cover Drive , Sky Ferreira , and Rita Ora .

= = Public image = =

Stefani began wearing a bindi in the mid @-@ 1990s after attending several family gatherings for Tony Kanal , who is of Indian heritage . During No Doubt 's breakthrough , Stefani wore the forehead decoration in several of the band 's music videos and briefly popularized the accessory in 1997 . First attracting attention in the 1995 music video for " Just a Girl " , Stefani is known for her midriff and frequently wears shirts that expose it . Stefani 's makeup design generally includes light face powder , bright red lipstick , and arched eyebrows ; she wrote about the subject in a song titled " Magic 's in the Makeup " for No Doubt 's Return of Saturn , asking " If the magic 's in the makeup / Then who am I ? " . Stefani is a natural brunette , though her hair has not been its natural color since she was in ninth grade . Since late 1994 , she has had usually platinum blond hair . Stefani discussed this in the song " Platinum Blonde Life " on Rock Steady and played original blond bombshell Jean Harlow in the 2004 biopic The Aviator . Despite appearing mostly with blonde hair , she also dyed her hair blue in 1998 and pink in 2000 , notably appearing on the cover of Return of Saturn with pink hair .

In 2006 , Stefani modified her image , inspired by that of Michelle Pfeiffer 's character in the 1983 film Scarface . The reinvented image included a symbol consisting of two back @-@ to @-@ back ' G 's , which appears on a diamond @-@ encrusted key she wears on a necklace and which became a motif in the promotion of The Sweet Escape . Stefani raised concerns in January 2007 about her rapid weight loss following her pregnancy . She stated she lost the weight through diet and exercise but admitted to obsessing over her weight due to the size zero trend . She later stated that she had been on a diet since the sixth grade to fit in size 4 clothing , commenting , " It 's an ongoing battle and it 's a nightmare . But I like clothes too much , and I always wanted to wear the outfits I would make . " A wax figure of Stefani was unveiled at Madame Tussauds Las Vegas at The Venetian on September 22 , 2010 . The release of Stefani 's first solo album brought attention to her entourage of four Harajuku Girls , who appear in outfits influenced by Gothic Lolita fashion , and are named for the area around the Harajuku Station of Tokyo , Japan . Stefani 's clothing also took influence from Japanese fashion , in a style described as a combination between Christian Dior and Japan . The dancers are featured in her music videos , press coverage , and on the album cover for Love . Angel . Music . Baby . , with a song named for and dedicated to them on the album . They were also featured in , and the namesake for , Stefani 's Harajuku Lovers Tour . Forbes magazine reported Stefani 's earnings in 2008 , calculating that she earned \$ 27 million between June 2007 to June 2008 for her tour , fashion line and commercials , making her the world 's 10th highest paid music personality at the time .

= = Awards and accolades = =

As a solo artist , Gwen has won several music awards , including one Grammy Award , four MTV Video Music Awards , one American Music Award , one Brit Award , and two Billboard Music Awards . With No Doubt , she has won two Grammy Awards . In 2005 , Rolling Stone called her " the only true female rock star left on radio or MTV " and featured her on the magazine 's cover . Stefani received the Style Icon Award at the first People Magazine Awards in 2014 .

= = Philanthropy = =

Following the 2011 T?hoku earthquake and tsunami , Stefani donated \$ 1 million to Save the Children 's Japan Earthquake ? Tsunami Children in Emergency Fund . Stefani also ran an auction on eBay from April 11 to April 25 , 2011 , allowing participants to bid on vintage clothing items from her personal wardrobe and custom T @-@ shirts designed and signed by her , as well as on admission to a private Harajuku @-@ themed tea party hosted by her on June 7 , 2011 at Los Angeles ' first @-@ ever Japanese @-@ style maid café and pop art space , Royal / T , with proceeds from the auction going to Save the Children 's relief effort .

At the amfAR gala during the 2011 Cannes Film Festival , Stefani auctioned off the lacy black dress

she wore at the event for charity , raising over \$ 125 @, @ 000 . The dress sparked controversy after a representative for designer Michael Angel ? who helped Stefani with the design and worked as a stylist ? alleged that it was Angel who created the gown , not Stefani . In response , Angel released a statement confirming that the dress was designed by Stefani for L.A.M.B. to wear and be auctioned off at the amfAR gala , adding , " I 'm disappointed that the focus has shifted away from what Gwen and I originally intended , which was to create a custom outfit for a great cause . We both were thrilled with the outcome and enjoyed the process . I have nothing but respect for her and look forward to working with her on more projects in the future . " Stefani hosted a fundraiser with First Lady Michelle Obama in August 2012 at the singer 's Beverly Hills home .

#### = = Discography = =

Love . Angel . Music . Baby . ( 2004 )  
The Sweet Escape ( 2006 )  
This Is What the Truth Feels Like ( 2016 )

#### = = Tours = =

Harajuku Lovers Tour ( 2005 )  
The Sweet Escape Tour ( 2007 )  
MasterCard Priceless Surprises Presents Gwen Stefani ( 2015 ? 16 )  
This Is What the Truth Feels Like Tour ( 2016 )

#### = = Filmography = =