

Title:

Barry Manilow - Singer And Songwriter Extraordinaire Returns To The Stage

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627

Summary:

For generations, Barry Manilow has been singing his way into the hearts of millions of people from every corner of the globe. His songs are anthems for couples in every time zone, and his songwriting acumen is legendary. Fans will be thrilled to know that Manilow is returning to the stage in Las Vegas in 2006. Manilow will be playing regular shows at the Las Vegas Hilton, and his appearance is just another reason to visit the biggest oasis in the world. Below is a look at how...

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Article Body:

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## Early Life

Barry Alan Pincus was born in Brooklyn, New York on June 17, 1943. His father was of Russian and Jewish descent, and his mother was Irish. His parents split up when Barry was only two, and he was raised by his mother and maternal grandparents. He was introduced to music when he was seven, when he began to learn the piano and accordion.

Prior to his Bar Mitzvah at age 13, Barry began to sing. It was also at this time that he changed his name to match that of his mother's maiden name - Manilow. In several ways, 1956 was the year Barry Manilow was "born".

## Budding Career

He continued singing through high school, and upon graduation, he was accepted

to the prestigious Julliard School of Music. He paid his tuition by working in the CBS mail room. This proved to be a fortuitous school-time job. Manilow advanced at CBS, and wound up serving as the musical director for the CBS show *Callback*.

For the next few years, Manilow made his way by writing and performing advertising jingles, including the now-famous song for State Farm Insurance. His work got him noticed, and in 1971 he was hired by Bette Midler as her pianist and music director. He accompanied her on several bath house performances in New York City before Midler herself gained fame and fortune. His work with Midler helped her rise to the top, and as a result, Manilow landed his first record deal in 1973.

#### Potential Reached

Although Manilow's first album, *Barry Manilow*, was not a huge success, his follow-up, *Barry Manilow II*, contained what became his first smash hit, the single, *Mandy*, which climbed to number one in both the US and UK. From there, an incredible run of commercial success ensued. Manilow's next six albums all reached the Top 10 on the US Album charts, and some of the singles he produced during this time have remained popular to this day, including *I Write The Songs* in 1975 and *Looks Like We Made It* in 1977.

In all, Manilow has released over 30 albums, and 13 of them have risen to number one on the US Album charts, which is an unbelievable rate of success. Manilow's style has transformed over the years as well. His early works were almost exclusively love songs and ballads. However, in the early 1980's, Manilow began to focus more on smooth jazz and worked with such legends of the genre as Mel Torme and Sarah Vaughan.

Overall, though, Manilow is best known for his romantic singing and sometimes crooning ways on stage, and his shows have been sold out in nearly every venue for decades. His fans number in the millions and his act is imitated by many.

Manilow has won two Grammy Awards during his career for his singing performances, and in 2002, he was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. *Rolling Stone Magazine* called him the best performer of his generation. His charitable works are too numerous to list in one volume.

Generally, there are many reasons to take in a Barry Manilow show. We've listed a few, but a trip to Las Vegas would be well worth your time to see one of the true icons of musical performance.