

# STAMP SCOOP



## JOHNNY CASH

Known to audiences as the “Man in Black,” Johnny Cash left an indelible mark on American music, bridging gospel, rock, and country.

Born in Arkansas in 1932, Cash grew up on his family’s farm during the Great Depression. Music, religion, and hard work would influence him throughout his life. After serving in the Air Force in Germany, he returned home to Memphis with a \$5 guitar and became part of a burgeoning “rockabilly” music scene that included icons Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Elvis Presley.

By 1960, with hits like “Folsom Prison Blues” and “I Walk the Line,” Cash was a bona fide superstar. Unfortunately the pressure of fame took its toll and Cash struggled with addiction to drugs and alcohol. Fellow country star June Carter helped him back to sobriety. They married in 1968, had a son, and became one of American music’s most beloved couples.

Cash made a remarkable resurgence in the 1990s, winning several Grammy awards for new albums. He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1980, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1992. In 2003, just four months after June’s death, Johnny died of complications associated with diabetes.

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