

WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

Otis Redding was born in Dawson, Georgia on this day 1941. He is nicknamed 'The King of Soul' and many regard him as the greatest male vocalist of all time. He began singing in the church choir and began singing lessons when he was 10. He left school at 15 to work to support his family as his father was too ill to work.

His big break came when he was 16 and he entered a local weekly talent contest organised by a radio station. He won the \$5 prize for 15-weeks in a row before organisers finally banned him from entering.

After fronting Little Richard's former band 'The Upsetters' during the early 60s he began writing and recording his own songs. Songs such as *These Arms of Mine*, *Mr Pitiful* and *Respect* (which would later be a huge hit for Aretha Franklin) were minor hits, though he was noticed more in the UK where *Melody Maker* named him 'International Male Vocalist of the Year' in 1966 - a title they had bestowed on Elvis for each of the previous ten years.

His biggest hit and first world-wide number 1 came **posthumously** with *(Sittin' on) The Dock of the Bay* which he recorded four days before he died on 10th December 1967 along with most of his band, when the small plane they were in crashed into a lake in Wisconsin. He was just 26 years old.



- How does Redding's music make you feel?
- Have you ever sung in public, in church in a choir or at a talent contest?
- Was it unfair that organisers said Otis couldn't enter their talent contest any more?

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The 'King of Soul', Otis Redding was born in Georgia on this day 1941. He started singing in the church choir and once won a talent contest 15-weeks in a row, before being banned from entering.

From 1963 he began writing and recording his own songs such as *These Arms of Mine*, *Mr Pitiful* and *Respect*. They were minor hits and *Melody Maker* in UK named him 'International Male Vocalist of the Year' in 1966.

His biggest hit came **posthumously** with *(Sittin' on) The Dock of the Bay* which he recorded four days before he died on 10th December 1967 along with most of his band, when the plane they were in crashed into a lake in Wisconsin. He was just 26.



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