

## Linda Ronstadt – Bio

Linda Marie Ronstadt was born on July 15<sup>th</sup> 1946 in Tucson, Arizona. From an early age she sang pop and country songs with her brother and sister. They performed as The Three Ronstadts during her high school years, and she also sang Mexican folk songs with her father. Ronstadt can claim a paternal German/Mexican bloodline and a Dutch/English maternal bloodline. Although she had enrolled at the University of Arizona, guitarist Bobby Kimmel asked her to go to L.A. and the pair arrived there in late 1964. Teaming with Santa Monica bred Kenny Edwards, they formed the folk trio the Stone Poneys, and cut a single for Sidewalk Records. Signed to Capitol Records in 1966 the trio cut three albums for the imprint. In 1967 the group scored a Top 20 pop single with Michael Nesmith's "Different Drum."

Remaining with Capitol, Ronstadt cut a quartet of albums, which were repackaged with previously unreleased material in early 2006 as "**The Best Of Linda Ronstadt – The Capitol Years**," but none of her releases proved to be major sellers. Linda scored her first Grammy nomination for her cover of Gary White's "Long, Long Time" from "**Silk Purse**," a song that was a Top 30 Pop Single. Ronstadt's band during the early seventies featured Glenn Frey, Don Henley, Randy Meisner and Bernie Leadon, who would later find fame as The Eagles. A move to David Geffen's Asylum imprint brought producer Peter Asher into her life, and "**Heart Like A Wheel**" a platinum selling # 1 Pop album saw her score a trio of Grammy nominations and picking up Best Country Vocal Performance, Female for "I Can't Help It [If I'm Still In Love With You]." Her next five albums, produced by Asher, all achieved platinum sales. In addition they made U.S. Top 5 Pop with "**Simple Dreams**" and "**Living In The USA**" reaching # 1. During that period Linda scored five more Grammy nominations and picked up a statuette for 1976 Best Pop Vocal Performance, Female and the 1980 Best Musical Album for Children for the compilation "**In Harmony : A Sesame Street Record**" which included the Linda Ronstadt/Wendy Waldman co-write "I Want A Horse." Having cut a series of albums containing covers of pop/country/folk material, new wave writers proved to be the focus on "**Mad Love**" with songs by Elvis Costello and Mark Goldenberg [The Cretones]. During this stage of her career Linda appeared numerous times on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine and once, each, on the cover of Time and Newsweek. Ronstadt appeared as herself in the movie "**FM**" [1978]. Although "**Get Closer**" was produced by Asher, the album marked the beginning of an ongoing relationship with George Massenburg, initially as a recording engineer/mixer and subsequently as album co-producer with Linda.

During 1983 Linda appeared in a Broadway production of Gilbert & Sullivan's operetta "**The Pirates Of Penzance**," and on the cast recording, and the same year starred alongside Angela Lansbury and Kevin Kline in the movie version. "**What's New**," "**Lush Life**" and "**For Sentimental Reasons**," collaborations with Nelson Riddle [and his orchestra], all produced by Asher, explored big band music from the pre WWII era. The latter trio of releases were later reissued as the 2CD "**Round Midnight**" [1986], with "**What's New**" and "**Lush Life**" scoring Grammy nominations for Best Pop Vocal Performance, Female. Ronstadt explored Mexican and borderland music on "**Canciones De Mi Padre**" and "**Mas Canciones**," with the former scoring a Best Mexican-American Performance and the latter a Best Mexican-American Album Grammy. The Ronstadt, Dolly Parton and Emmylou Harris recording "**Trio**" explored old time country music, and scored four hits singles and a Best Country Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal Grammy, plus an Album of the Year nomination. Ronstadt produced "**Very Greasy**" [1988] by David Lindley & El Rayo-X, and with long-time collaborator Massenburg co-produced Aaron Neville's "**Warm Your Heart**" [1991] and Jimmy Webb's "**Suspending Disbelief**" [1993].

Stylistically "**Cry Like A Rainstorm**," produced by Peter Asher, found Ronstadt return to her pop/country/folk roots and featured a quartet of duets with Aaron Neville. The album reached # 7 Pop, was a triple platinum seller and across two years scored three Grammy nominations, winning in the categories 1989 Best Pop Vocal Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal for "Don't Know Much" and 1990 Best Pop Vocal Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal for "All My Life." Ronstadt enjoyed further Grammy success during the nineteen-nineties with wins in 1992 Best Tropical Latin Album for "**Frenesi**," 1996 Best Musical Album for Children for "**Dedicated To The One I Love**," 1999 Best Country Collaboration with Vocals for the track "After The Gold Rush" on "**Trio II**," and 1999 nominations for Best Country Album for "**Trio II**" [with Harris and Parton] and Best Contemporary Folk Album for "**Western Wall : The Tucson Sessions**" [with Harris]. The latter recording was produced by Glyn Johns. Ronstadt moved back to Tucson during the nineteen-nineties and lives in the suburb of Sweetwater.

**“Linda Ronstadt Box Set”** was a four CD collection that embraced Stone Poneys, solo and rare recordings, 1967 to 1998. In the new millennium Ronstadt has continued her involvement with projects that explore different genres of music. **“Evangeline Made: A Tribute to Cajun Music,”** produced by cajun star Ann Savoy [Savoy-Doucet Band], included two duets by Savoy and Ronstadt. The album was later nominated for a Best Traditional Folk Album Grammy. **“Hummin’ To Myself”** found Ronstadt interpreting a collection of jazz standards. In July the same year while appearing at the Aladdin Casino in Las Vegas, she praised Michael Moore’s documentary **“Fahrenheit 9/11,”** reportedly causing upset among the audience. The summer of 2006 saw the release of **“Adieu False Heart,”** produced by Steve Buckingham, and credited to the Zozo Sisters, namely Savoy and Ronstadt.

Discography : excluding compilations

with Stone Poneys - **“Stone Poneys”** [1967] ; **“Evergreen Vol. 2”** [1967] ; **“Stone Poneys & Friends Vol. 3”** [1968] :

with Dolly Parton & Emmylou Harris - **“Trio”** [1987] ; **“Trio II”** [1999] :

with Emmylou Harris - **“Western Wall : The Tucson Sessions”** [1999] :

with Anne Savoy [as The Zozo Sisters] - **“Adieu False Heart”** [2006] :

Solo - **“Hand Sown.....Home Grown”** [1969] ; **“Silk Purse”** [1970] ; **“Linda Ronstadt”** [1972] ; **“Don’t Cry Now”** [1973] ; **“Heart Like A Wheel”** [1974] ; **“Prisoner In Disguise”** [1975] ; **“Hasten Down The Wind”** [1976] ; **“Simple Dreams”** [1977] ; **“Living In The USA”** [1978] ; **“Mad Love”** [1980] ; **“Get Closer”** [1982] ; **“What’s New”** [1983] ; **“Lush Life”** [1984] ; **“For Sentimental Reasons”** [1986] ; **“Canciones De Mi Padre”** [1987] ; **“Cry Like A Rainstorm – Howl Like The Wind”** [1989] ; **“Mas Canciones”** [1991] ; **“Frenesi”** [1992] ; **“Winter Light”** [1993] ; **“Feels Like Home”** [1995] ; **“Dedicated To The One I Love”** [1996] ; **“We Ran”** [1998] ; **“The Linda Ronstadt Box Set”** [1999] ; **“A Merry Little Christmas”** [2000] ; **“Hummin’ To Myself”** [2004] ;

**Arthur Wood**

Kerrville Kronikles 06/06 & 07/06

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