

# BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

**Bruce Frederick Joseph Springsteen** (born September 23, 1949), nicknamed "**The Boss**", is an American songwriter, singer and musician. He records and tours with the [E Street Band](#). Springsteen is widely known for his brand of [heartland rock](#) infused with pop hooks, poetic lyrics, and [American](#) sentiments centered on his native [New Jersey](#).

Springsteen had been inspired to take up music at the age of seven after seeing [Elvis Presley](#) on [The Ed Sullivan Show](#). At 13, he bought his first [guitar](#) for \$18; later, his mother took out a loan to buy the 16-year-old Springsteen a \$60 Kent guitar, an event he later memorialized in his song "The Wish".



In 1965, he went to the house of Tex and Marion Vinyard, who sponsored young bands in town. They helped him become lead guitarist and subsequently the lead singer of The Castiles. The Castiles recorded two original songs at a public [recording studio](#) in [Brick Township, New Jersey](#) and played a variety of venues, including [Cafe Wha?](#) in [Greenwich Village](#). Marion Vinyard said that she believed the young Springsteen when he promised he would make it big.

He has earned numerous awards for his work, including nineteen [Grammy Awards](#), two [Golden Globes](#) and an [Academy Award](#), and continues to have a strong global fan base. He has sold more than 65 million albums in the United States and 120 million worldwide.

His most famous albums, [Born to Run](#) and [Born in the U.S.A.](#), epitomize his penchant for finding grandeur in the struggles of daily life in America. He has gradually become identified with [liberal politics](#). He is also noted for his support of various relief and rebuilding efforts in New Jersey and elsewhere, and for his response to the [September 11th attacks](#), on which his album [The Rising](#) reflects.

Springsteen signed a record deal with [Columbia Records](#) in 1972, with the help of [John Hammond](#), who had signed [Bob Dylan](#) to the same [record label](#) a decade earlier. Springsteen brought many of his New Jersey-based colleagues into the studio with him, thus forming the [E Street Band](#) (although it would not be formally named as such for a couple more years). His debut album, [Greetings from Asbury Park, N.J.](#), released in January 1973, established him as a critical favorite though sales were slow. Because of Springsteen's lyrical poeticism and [folk rock](#)-rooted music exemplified on tracks like "[Blinded by the Light](#)" and "For You," amongst others, as well as the Columbia and Hammond connections, critics initially compared Springsteen to [Bob Dylan](#). "He sings with a freshness and urgency I haven't heard since I was rocked by '[Like a Rolling Stone](#),'" wrote [Crawdaddy](#) magazine editor Peter Knobler in Springsteen's first interview/profile, in March 1973. [Crawdaddy](#) "discovered" Springsteen in the rock press and was his earliest champion. Famed music critic [Lester Bangs](#) wrote in [Creem](#), 1975, that when Springsteen's first album was released....."many of us dismissed it: he wrote like Bob Dylan and [Van Morrison](#), sang like Van Morrison and [Robbie Robertson](#), and led a band that sounded like Van Morrison's.