

Don Henley

Donald Hugh Henley was born July 22, 1947 in Gilmer, Texas, but grew up in Linden. He is the drummer and one of the lead singers and songwriters of the enormously popular band The Eagles, and has since had a very successful solo career. He has played a founding role in several philanthropic causes, including the Walden Wood Project, and Caddo Lake Institute.



Don Henley moved to Los Angeles in 1970 to record an album with one of his first bands, Shiloh. In Los Angeles, Henley met Glenn Frey, and after backing Linda Ronstadt, they left to form The Eagles, a band that would feature their own songs and vocals. Their early music was an amalgamation of country and bluegrass with California surfer pop, producing country-flavored pop-rock. The Eagles brought the attributes of a solo singer-songwriter into a group setting, with increased emphasis on arrangements and musicianship, and the group's early sound became the foundation of southern California country rock.

The first Eagles album was released in 1972 and contained the hit song "Take It Easy," as well as Henley's first hit songwriting attempt, "Witchy Woman." As the seventies progressed, Henley's raspy vocals replaced Glenn Frey's tenor as the focal point of the Eagles "sound." The band broke up in 1980 following a difficult tour and increased personal tensions resulting from the recording of the band's last studio album *The Long Run*. During the Eagles' existence Henley co-wrote (usually with Frey) most of the band's best-known songs, notably "Desperado" and "Hotel California".

Following the breakup of the Eagles, Henley embarked on a productive solo career, the most successful of any of the Eagles. His first solo release, 1982's *I Can't Stand Still*, was a moderate seller. The song "Dirty Laundry", a denunciation of local television news, received the most airplay. Henley and Stevie Nicks would co-write and duet on her Billboard Hot 100 #6 hit "Leather and Lace" that same year.

This was followed in 1984 by *Building the Perfect Beast*, and the single, "The Boys of Summer," reached #5 on the Billboard Hot 100. Henley also won the Grammy Award for Best Male Rock Vocal Performance for the song. Henley's next album, 1989's *The End of the Innocence*, was even more successful. The title track, a collaboration with Bruce Hornsby, reached #8 as a single, and the follow up single, "The Heart of the Matter," was another major hit. Henley again won the Best Male Rock Vocal Performance Grammy for the album.

Henley continues to make solo recordings, has collaborated with country star Trisha Yearwood and rock legend Patti Smythe, and has reunited with the Eagles for major reunion tours.