



A TIMELINE OF THE WOMEN  
WHO CHANGED AMERICA



## September 2023 Her Story ENewsletter Number 1 Albums

In July of 2023, Taylor Swift became the first female artist and the first living artist in nearly six decades to have four albums on the *Billboard* Top 10 in the same week. In addition, her album hit number 1, which was her 12<sup>th</sup> number 1 album, also the most of any female artist. With her twelfth album, Taylor Swift surpassed Barbra Streisand for most number 1 albums for a woman. Taylor Swift also has one of the top albums of all time, as do two women featured in our work: Mariah Carey and Carole King.



Singer, actress, writer, movie director and producer, **Barbra Streisand** has eleven number 1 albums on the *Billboard* Hot 100. In addition, she was the first to direct, produce, co-author, star and sing in a major motion picture. That was for her 1983 movie, *Yentl*. Streisand is one of the select group who have won an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony, the so-called and coveted EGOT. She has also won a Peabody and been honored with the Kennedy Center Honors and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Streisand grew up in New York City with a singing influence – her mother had been a soprano who considered a musical career and sang semi-professionally on occasion. Barbra Streisand was known in the neighborhood for her voice and made her singing debut at school. Her first demo tape was made at age 13, but she wanted to be an actress. After struggling for a while seeking acting roles, she auditioned for a singing role and then began singing in nightclubs. She realized she could be an actress and a singer and landed her first Broadway role in the early 1960s. In 1962, she received a Tony nomination for her role in *I Can Get It for You Wholesale*. Her first album (1963) with Columbia Records won three Grammys. Streisand continued to combine her many talents throughout a career that has now lasted more than seven decades.



Singer-songwriter and musician **Carole King** released her album *Tapestry*, in 1971. It remained on the charts for almost six years selling more than ten million copies in the U.S. and an estimated twenty-two million copies worldwide. Considered the most successful songwriter of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, King was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990. She has written or co-written 118 songs on the *Billboard* Hot 100.

King grew up in New York with a mother who had learned to play the piano as a child and who would sometimes practice. At three years old, King's mother started teaching her basic piano skills. When she was four, her parents discovered that she had perfect pitch and her mother started giving her actual piano lessons. Carole King's first official recording was released in 1958, when she was still a teenager. In college, she met Gerry Goffin whom she married and who became her songwriting partner. Their first hit single was sung by The Shirelles and was *Will You Love Me Tomorrow*. King has received multiple Grammys including the Lifetime Achievement Award. She said, "Write from your heart, from your passions. If you think it's a difficult road, you're right but don't give up."

Barbra Streisand and Carole King are among the more than 850 women profiled in our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*. Women's accomplishments continue to inspire and encourage us. Continue to help us tell women's stories!

Charlotte Waisman and Jill Tietjen

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