

Throwback: Donna Summer - Bad Girls



[youtube]QZ_KbwEVBjU[/youtube]

Donna Summer debuted as a singer when she was 10 years old at a church in her native Boston. As a teenager she joined a rock band called Crow and when they dissolved she joined the German version of the production *Hair*. In 1971 and 1972 she released the singles [“Sally Go Round The Roses”](#) and “If You Walkin’ Alone” internationally. She met producers Giorgio Moroder and Pete Bellotte while singing back-up for Three Dog Night and they wrote and produced all the songs from her first full-length album *Lady Of The Night*. The 1974 album was only released in the Netherlands and it spawned minor hit singles in [“The Hostage”](#) and [“Lady Of The Night.”](#) Summer’s commercial breakthrough came in 1975 when Casablanca released the album and single [“Love To Love You Baby.”](#) The sensual nature of the song destroyed some radio play but the album became her first platinum seller and quickly positioned her as new queen of the club. The subsequent *Love Trilogy* and *Four Seasons Of Love* both achieved gold status but her 1977 work with Moroder and Belotte is the most innovative because of the song [“I Feel Love”](#) from the *I Remember Yesterday* project. “I Feel Love”’s combination of her ethereal vocals and Moroder’s automated-sounding synthesizers presaged house and techno. If there was any doubt as to Summer’s significance in the realm of dance music “I Feel Love” placed her firmly as the Queen of Disco. *Once Upon A Time* from 1977 was her first double album and it was designed around the concept of Cinderella. She had her first no. 1 single when she released [“MacArthur Park”](#) from her *Live And More* album that also produced [“Heaven Knows.”](#) Summer’s iconic appearance in the 1978 movie *Thank God It’s Friday* turned the film into a vehicle for the song [“Last](#)

[Dance](#)" that snared her first Grammy. The 1979 double platinum sales of The prostitution-themed *Bad Girls* made it her best-selling album and thoroughly saturated pop culture. The title track, ["Sunset People,"](#) ["Hot Stuff,"](#) ["Walk Away"](#) and ["Dim All The Lights"](#) were solid acceptances of disco across audiences. Later that year a greatest hits package was released and there was the duet ["No More Tears \(Enough Is Enough\)"](#) with Barbara Streisand and the single ["On The Radio."](#) In the '80's Summer changed her style when she signed to Geffen Records and *The Wanderer* discarded disco for rock and new wave still managing to go gold. *She Works Hard For The Money* was Summer's cultural and sales peak in the '80's becoming a mantra for feminists and catchy pop for the mainstream. In the '90's she released gospel-oriented material and worked again with Moroder on the single ["Carry On."](#) She also had success with the dance hit ["Melody Of Love"](#) and appeared on the show *Family Matters*. In 2004 Summer was inducted into the Dance Music Hall Of Fame and so was the song "I Feel Love." The 2008 album *Crayons* was her first album in 17 years and it did well on the dance charts domestically and internationally because of ["I'm a Fire,"](#) ["Stamp Your Feet"](#) and ["Fame \(The Game\)."](#) Summer released ["To Paris With Love"](#) in 2010 and it would be her last living output before her May 17, 2012 passing.