

# R.I.P. George Michael

[youtube id="izGwDsrQ1eQ"] George Michael died today at the age of 53 according to his publicist "peacefully at home." Michael became a pop icon in the '80's initially as one-half of the duo Wham! with Andrew Ridgeley and then as a solo star. "Wake Me Up Before You Go- Go" and "Everything She Wants" introduced Wham! to the world and they were immediately embraced by America. The video for "Careless Whisper" established Michael as a romantic and sex symbol and garnered success for him in the pop and R&B markets. Michael started his solo career in 1987 by recording the Grammy-winning duet "I Knew You Were Waiting" with Aretha Franklin. Michael's *Faith* album was his debut solo album and it had six top five singles and earned the Grammy for Album Of The Year in 1989. His popularity extended well throughout the '90's and he released three albums and one EP during the decade. Michael took a break from recording after the release of the covers album, *Songs From The Last Century* and returned in 2004 with well-received *Patience*. In 2014, *Symphonica*, an album of mostly live recordings from his 2011 *Symphonica* tour, was released. At the time of his passing, he was working on a new album producer and songwriter Naughty Boy.

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