

# Throwback: INXS-Bitter Tears



"Bitter Tears" was a single from INXS's seventh studio album X. The title represented the 10 years since their 1980 debut album. The Australian band became international rock stars with the release of their 1987 album Kick. They had achieved their only number-one single, "Need You Tonight" and three more Top Ten singles in the United States. The work for X did not happen immediately because the band members took a break and worked on side projects in 1989. Frontman Michael Hutchence told a radio interviewer they had to follow up on the success of Kick or "they would disappear." All six group members wrote "Bitter Tears," released as the fourth single

in the UK to coincide with their headlining show at Wembley Stadium in July 1991. The song about a failed relationship did not have the commercial fanfare of “Suicide Blonde” and “Disappear” which was also on *X*, but the fans did not care as the band was still in its prime. *X* was not as big as *Kick* but it was certified Gold two months after its release. In 2002, a remastered version of *X* was released with five bonus tracks. INXS announced they would stop touring in 2012 after working with Jon Stevens, J.D. Fortune, and Ciaran Gribbin as replacements for Hutchence who died in 1997. In January 2024, the band announced their partnership with jeweler [Michael Hill](#) for a limited edition collection of recycled silver pieces including guitar pick pendants, rings, dog tags, and bangles.

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## Throwback: INXS - Need You Tonight



[youtube id="Swdbv5I6qzc"]INXS had been releasing records since 1980 but it was not until their 1985 album *Listen Like Thieves* that they broke through to international audiences. *Kick* was their sixth album and it followed *Listen Like Thieves* with even greater success and wider visibility. “Need You Tonight” was INXS’ only number one single in the United States and its combination of funk and rock expanded their fanbase. Michael Hutchence’s vocals for “Need You Tonight” secured his sex symbol status. The song’s video was also a landmark for the ’80s for featuring the band in a series of animation and

superimposed images. Richard Lowenstein directed the clip that won five MTV Video Awards, Video Of The Year and made the network's list of 100 greatest videos. "Need You Tonight" became so big that it eventually became the group's signature song. Kick proved to be their best-selling album and the focal point for most people who discovered them a first time. INXS has 12 studio albums with *Elegantly Wasted* from 1997 being the last one recorded with Michael Hutchence before his death that same year. Since then, they have worked with other vocalists and released two albums without Hutchence. In 2012, *Kick* was reissued in various editions with the album remastered and with new content to mark its 25th anniversary.Â Â