

Abba

Names: **Benny Andersson, Anni-Frid Lyngstad, Agnetha Fältskog, and Björn Ulvaeus. (Björn & Benny, Agnetha & Frida)**

Origin: **Stockholm, Sweden**

Active: **1972–1982**

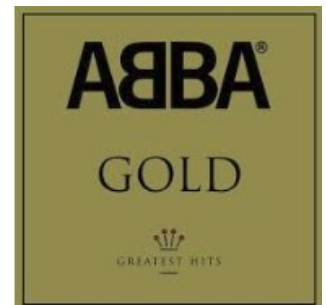


Abba were a Swedish pop group (but Anni-Frid is Norwegian) which formed in Stockholm in 1972. The group's name is an acronym of the first letters of their first names. They became one of the most successful acts in the history of pop music, selling songs worldwide from 1974 to 1982. They won the Eurovision Song Contest in 1974 with “*Waterloo*” (**Video 1**). This was the beginning of their worldwide fame. In total, they produced 98 unique songs.

Abba is one of the best-selling music artists of all time. They are the best-selling band from continental Europe, and also from outside the English-speaking world. Abba was the first group from a non-English-speaking country to achieve success in English-speaking countries. They achieved eight consecutive number-one albums in the UK. The group also enjoyed significant success in Latin America, and recorded a collection of their hit songs in Spanish (**Video 2**).

The band was composed of two couples, Agnetha Fältskog with Björn Ulvaeus, and Anni-Frid Lyngstad with Benny Andersson. With the increase of their popularity, their personal lives suffered which eventually resulted in the collapse of both marriages.

Abba disbanded in December 1982. Later, Andersson and Ulvaeus achieved some success writing music for the stage, while Lyngstad and Fältskog pursued solo careers, with little success. Abba’s music declined in popularity until the purchase of Abba’s catalogue by Polygram in 1989. A new “*Greatest Hits*” (ABBA Gold) collection was released in September 1992, which became a worldwide bestseller. Several films, such as “*Muriel’s Wedding*” (1994) (**Video 3**) and “*The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*” (1994), also revived interest in the group.



In 1999, Abba’s music was adapted into the successful stage musical “*Mamma Mia*” that toured worldwide. A film of the same name, released in 2008, became the most successful film in the UK, that year. A sequel, “*Mamma Mia - Here We Go Again*”, was released in 2018, and achieved great success (**Videos 4 & 5**).

Abba were honoured at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Eurovision Song Contest in 2005, when their hit “*Waterloo*” was chosen as the best song in the competition's history. The group was inducted into the “*Rock and Roll Hall of Fame*” in 2010. In 2015, their song “*Dancing Queen*” was inducted into the Recording Academy's “*Grammy Hall of Fame*”.

Interview with Benny & Björn in 2018: **Video 6**.

In May 2022, a new show opened in London featuring holograms of the young versions of the band members. Abba have no plans to reunite in person. (**Video 7**).

History of Abba: (**Video 8**).

Top 10 Abba songs: (**Video 9**).

“S.O.S.” - Swedish version: (**Video 10**).

An example of a less famous song: “If it wasn't for the Nights” (1978) (**Video 11**).

Their last official video was made for the Eurovision Song Contest in 2004 (**Video 12**).

Abba's Greatest Hits

Dancing Queen

Take a Chance on me

Mamma Mia

Knowing me, Knowing you

Fernando

The Winner Takes it all

Waterloo

Gimme, Gimme, Gimme a Man after Midnight

S.O.S.

Super Trouper

Money, Money, Money

Chiquitita

Lay all your Love on me

Does your Mother Know?

I Have a Dream



Agnetha 2018



Anni-Frid 2018



Benny 2018



Björn 2018

List of Videos:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FsVeMz1F5c>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4oTvuow9cc>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyZTSJlue0s>
4. Clip from film "Mamma Mia" – 2008 (36:09-40:24)
5. Clip from film "Mamma Mia 2" – 2018 (1:00:00-1:03:04)
6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARSRzpiRB-8>
7. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pyri2ycwHJk>
8. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PPwlGhBXh7A>
9. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6kVLAn-MsM>
10. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zu7llF0_Agw
11. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFvgBTQXZ_Y
12. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8L6T6Yj5u4k>