

Katrina

formerly of

Katrina & The Waves

www.katrinaweb.com

Katrina was born in Topeka, Kansas and came from a big air force family, moving every couple of years; arriving in England in 1976 where Katrina formed the band Mama's Cookin'.

In 1983 Katrina joined The Waves and the band became Katrina and The Waves gigging around England and the London pub and club circuit at venues like Dingwalls, the Hope and Anchor and the Marquee.

Katrina and The Waves had their first big break in 1984 when The Bangles covered their song *Going Down to Liverpool* and they were subsequently signed by Capitol Records.

The first Capitol album, *Katrina & The Waves* released in 1985, was a substantial critical and commercial success and 'Walking on Sunshine' was a worldwide hit earning top ten spots around the globe. (No. 8 UK, No.9 US, No.3 Canada, No.4 Australia).

The single *Walking on Sunshine* gave Katrina and The Waves a worldwide hit in 1985 and a Grammy nomination.

Walking on Sunshine has been streamed over 850 Million times on Spotify alone and Katrina & The Waves on Spotify have 5.8 Million monthly listeners.

Films featuring 'Walking on Sunshine' include:

- *Ask Max* (1986) Disney movie.
- *Secret of My Success* (1987) Michael J Fox - walking on the treadmill
- *Look Who's Talking* (1989) danced to on-screen by John Travolta
- *High Fidelity*, (2000) danced to by Jack Black
- *American Psycho* (2000) with Christian Bale – to tone down a dark event.
- *Daddy Day Care* (2003) Eddie Murphy – opening sequence
- *Walking on Sunshine* (2014) Leona Lewis in musical featuring upbeat 80s songs

Katrina and The Waves' song covers:

- Bangles 'Going Down to Liverpool' (1984)
- Dolly Parton 'Walking on Sunshine' on her Treasures album (1996)
- Celine Dion 'That's Just The Woman in Me' (2008)
- Glee cast mash up of 'Walking on Sunshine' and Beyonce's 'Halo' (2010)
- 'Walking on Sunshine' has recently featured on *American Idol*, *X Factor* and *The Voice*.

Their follow up single, 'Do You Want Crying' was a top 40 hit in the US and 'Sun Street' was a UK Top 30 hit in 1986. In 1989 Katrina & The Waves recorded a more rock-orientated album for Capitol subsidiary SBK Records – *Break of Hearts* which included 'That's the Way' which reached No. 16 in the US charts. The band toured worldwide with artists such as Wham, The Beach Boys, Don Henley, Pointer Sisters, Chaka Khan, The Kinks, Fleetwood Mac, Coolio and Run DMC. 'Walking on Sunshine' was followed by more chart hits – 'Do You Want Crying' and 'Que Te Quiero' in 1985, 'Sun Street' in 1986 and 'That's The Way' in 1989, with performances at Madison Square Garden, The Mall, Washington DC, The Marquee Club and CBGBs where Katrina sang with Joey Ramone.

In 1997 Katrina and the Waves' 'Love Shine a Light' won the Eurovision Song Contest with the largest ever margin, followed by an unprecedented four consecutive appearances on Top of The Pops and a No. 3 in the UK Charts.

The following year, Katrina and the Waves split up and Katrina pursued an alternative career on radio and TV. She was a TV presenter on *Watchdog* on BBC1 and was then offered her own show on BBC

Radio 2 – where she presented a three-hour show, five days a week for the next year and a half. This was followed by a stint in musical theatre, where Katrina played the lead role (the songwriter Ellie Greenwich) in *Leader of the Pack*, singing some of the songs that had influenced her as a young singer.

In 2001, Katrina began a solo career, performing live in the UK and in Europe and resumed writing and recording. Her first solo album, 'Katrina Leskanich' was released in 2005. Katrina wrote and produced many of the songs on the album, which includes collaborations with Phil Thornalley, ('Torn') and an acoustic cover of Kirsty MacColl's, 'They Don't Know'.

In 2006, Katrina put together a new band, performing their first gig at The Borderline in London and in 2007 Katrina covered 'Hitsville UK' on *The Sandinista! Project* – a new compilation and tribute to The Clash Sandinista! Album. And toured Australia on the Countdown Spectacular tour and Norway with Gylne Tider. Katrina's single 'They Don't Know' was included on the Gylne Tider 2 album which went platinum. The following year, Katrina had a UK club hit in 2008 with a dance version of 'They Don't Know'.

Katrina celebrated 25th Anniversary of 'Walking on Sunshine' in 2010 with the release of a new CD, *The Live Album* and the Glee Cast had a UK Top 10 hit with a mash up of Beyonce's 'Halo' and Katrina & The Waves 'Walking on Sunshine'. The EP *Spiritualize* was released in May 2011.

Katrina published her first book – *Peggy Lee Loves London: My London Guide* (Metropoodle Press 2013) where Katrina explores London in a new city tour guide series and 2014 saw the Retro Futura Tour of North America with other 80s artists including Thompson Twin Tom Bailey, Howard Jones and Midge Ure. Katrina also released her first studio album for 10 years - *Blisland*. In 2015 Katrina toured South Africa and again in North America.

In 2016, Katrina took part in the BBC's 'Eurovision: You Decide' and toured Australia on the 'Totally 80s' Tour and Sweden during the summer.

Katrina toured the USA with the Retro Futura Tour 2017 with 80s artists including Howard Jones, Paul Young and The English Beat, and released a compilation album, *The Very Best of Katrina*. In 2018 Katrina released her Christmas single, 'I Can't Give You Anything but Love'.

In 2020 Katrina released two new singles, 'Drive' and, 'I Want to Love Again' which was followed by the release of her album, *Hearts, Loves & Babys* (KATSWEB) later in the year.

2022 Katrina released the single 'Holiday' to celebrate the 25th anniversary of 'Love Shine A Light' winning Eurovision. In 2023 Katrina released a new single 'Shut Your Mouth' and was one of the guest artists of The Beach Boys on their Caribbean Beach Boys cruise and performed at the Grand Final party in the Eurovision Village when the Eurovision Song Contest was held in Liverpool in May. And toured Sweden with 'The Greatest 80s' tour for a month in November and December.

2024 Katrina released 'I Couldn't Live Without Your Love' which was No. 1 in the Heritage Chart for two weeks. This was followed up by a re-release of her Christmas single, 'I Can't Give You Anything but Love', which achieved a No. 2 placing in the Heritage Chart.