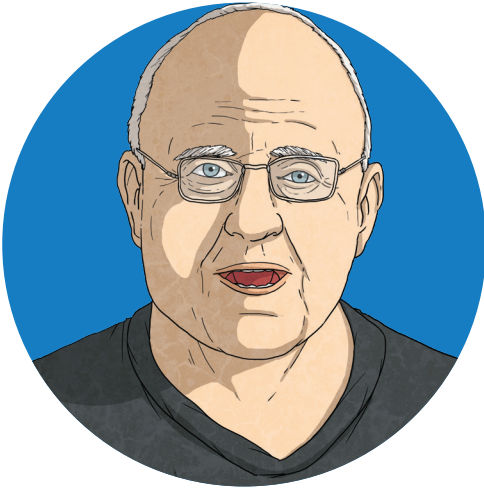


# Christy Moore - An Irish Folk Legend



Christopher Andrew Moore, better known as Christy, was born on 7 May 1945 in Newbridge, Co. Kildare. Christy is one of Ireland's best known and loved folk singers. He is also a well renowned songwriter and guitarist. His younger brother is also a musician, who uses the stage name Luka Bloom.

Christy's musical career began as a solo artist in 1972, however he was also a founding member and lead singer of the successful bands Planxty and Moving Hearts for periods of the 1970s and early 1980s. Christy has reformed with his old bandmates on many occasions for special performances and he is a great supporter of other musicians and songwriters.

Christy is best known for his ability to capture a sense of 'Irishness' in his song writing. His cleverly written lyrics often provide social commentary. This means he talks about important issues that are facing the country or the world at the time. By talking about these matters he is highlighting their importance and this can help to bring about change. Many artists use their influence to talk about the issues that are important to them. Christy is known to cover a range of topics such as politics, history, religion and Irish culture.

Christy released the album 'Ordinary Man' in 1985. His tenth studio album, it is a fine example of social commentary of that time. The title song reflected the plight of the ordinary working man in Ireland during the mid-1980s - a time of financial recession and hardship for many people. In the song, Christy has lost his job and he laments that while he and others like him are struggling,

the wealthy continue to live comfortable, undisrupted lives. Much of Christy's success comes from his ability to write about issues facing the Irish people and to give the ordinary people, who are often unheard, a voice.

The original 'Ordinary Man' album featured a song called 'They Never Came Home', which Christy wrote for the victims and families of a devastating fire in the North Dublin 'Stardust' nightclub in 1981. Forty-eight young people lost their lives in the tragedy. Christy has always used his music as a way to share his opinions. In the song, he criticized the government and the nightclub for the tragedy. The song was ordered to be removed from the album by court order. Christy, however, continues to be a controversial social commentator.



## Christy Moore - An Irish Folk Legend

Christy is a versatile musician who is as much associated with clever, witty lyrics as he is with delicate, sombre ballads. One of his best known songs, entitled 'Lisdoonvarna' is a comical tribute to this town in County Clare and the former music festival that was held there. 'My Little Honda 50' is a lighthearted song about the popular motorbike and 'Don't Forget Your Shovel' is a witty and up-tempo song

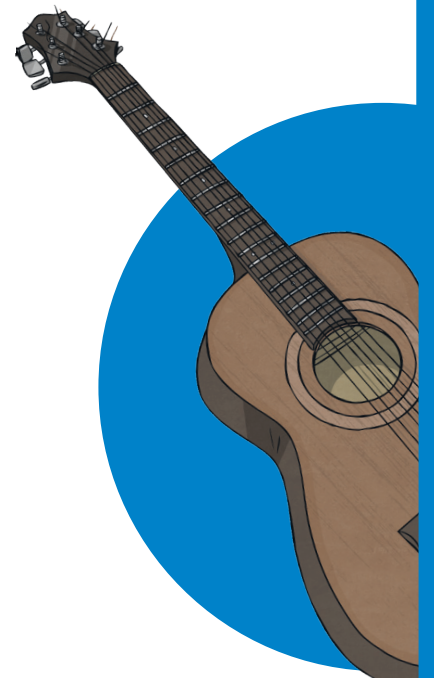


dedicated to the Irishmen who worked on building the railway system in the United Kingdom. His song 'Joxer Goes To Stuttgart' is a hilarious tale about an Irish soccer fan's adventures at the Euros in Germany in 1988. While humour is often present in Christy's songs, they continue to represent parts of everyday Irish life at particular moments in time.

Christy Moore has managed to transcend the folk music genre and is often credited with modernising Irish traditional music so that it is

appreciated across generations. Many modern singers and songwriters cite Christy as an influential figure in their musical careers, such as U2, Sinéad O'Connor and Ed Sheeran. In 2007, Christy was named Ireland's Greatest Living Musician in the RTÉ People of the Year Awards.

In July 2011, Christy performed his song 'Ride On' on stage with Coldplay at the Oxegen music festival. This was a special moment for Christy, as he performed to 60,000 young festival goers at a venue just a few miles from where he grew up in Kildare. At one of his many appearances on The Late Late Show, Christy revealed that Ed Sheeran visited his house ahead of his Croke Park gig in 2015 and Christy taught him the song 'Molly Malone', which Ed performed on stage later that evening to a sell-out crowd. In return for the tutorial, Ed surprised Christy with a gift of a specially made guitar. Christy Moore continues to tour, perform and delight audiences all over Ireland and the world. His music captures stories of what it means to be Irish, in good times, bad times and everything in between.



# Questions

1. When and where was Christy Moore born?

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2. Name the 2 bands that Christy was a member of.

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3. What topics does Christy often sing about? Name three.

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4. What is meant by the term social commentary?

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5. What is the song 'Ordinary Man' about?

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6. Who was the song 'They Never Came Home' written for?

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7. What is the song 'Joxer Goes To Stuttgart' about?

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8. Why do you think the Irish people identify with Christy's music?

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9. Name three famous artists whose careers were influenced by Christy Moore.

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10. Why do you think playing at the Oxegen festival was an important milestone for Christy? Give reasons for your answer.

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11. In your opinion, why do you think Christy was named Ireland's Greatest Living Musician in the RTÉ People of the Year Awards? Use the text to give reasons for your answer.

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12. Having read this, what type of person do you think Christy Moore is? Give reasons for your answer.

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# Answers

1. When and where was Christy Moore born?  
**Christy Moore was born in Newbridge, Co. Kildare on 7 May 1945.**
2. Name the 2 bands that Christy was a member of.  
**Christy was a member of the bands Planxty and Moving Hearts.**
3. What topics does Christy often sing about? Name three.  
**Three of the following answers: Politics, Irish culture, religion, history, 'Irishness'.**
4. What is meant by the term social commentary?  
**Social commentary means talking about important issues that are facing the country or the world at the time. It is often used to highlight issues and bring about change.**
5. What is the song 'Ordinary Man' about?  
**Pupils own responses, such as: The song Ordinary Man is about a man who has lost his job and is upset that the wealthy people are unaffected while others like him are struggling.**
6. The song Ordinary Man is about the recession in Ireland in the 1980s Who was the song 'They Never Came Home' written for?  
**The song 'They Never Came Home' was written for the victims and families of the Stardust nightclub fire in Dublin in 1981.**
7. What is the song 'Joxer Goes To Stuttgart' about?  
**The song 'Joxer Goes To Stuttgart' is about an Irish football fan called Joxer who goes to support Ireland at the Euros in Germany.**
8. Why do you think the Irish people identify with Christy's music?  
**Pupils own responses, such as:**
  - They identify with Christy's songs about 'Irishness' - his songs are a social commentary about the issues affecting Irish people.
  - Many of his songs about Irish life are humorous and relatable.
  - The ordinary people relate to Christy as he talks about the issues that they face and gives them a voice.
  - He often uses topics that Irish people can easily relate to such as Irish politics, history and culture.
9. Name three famous artists whose careers were influenced by Christy Moore.  
**Ed Sheeran, Sinead O'Connor, U2.**

10. Why do you think playing at the Oxegen festival was an important milestone for Christy? Give reasons for your answer.
- Pupils own responses, such as:**
- Christy grew up only a few miles away from the Oxegen music venue, so it was special for him to play to 60,000 people in his native Kildare.
  - Performing his song 'Ride On' with Coldplay would have been a very special moment for Christy as Coldplay are one of the world's most famous bands. By playing with Coldplay, Christy reached a new younger audience and a fan base outside of the traditional Irish folk music genre.
11. In your opinion, why do you think Christy was named Ireland's Greatest Living Musician in the RTÉ People of the Year Awards? Use the text to give reasons for your answer.
- Pupils own responses, such as:**
- Due to his very successful music career which has spanned decades.
  - Due to his ability to commentate on issues that are important to Irish people.
  - Due to the fact that he has influenced many other successful artists.
  - Due to his popularity with young and old alike.
  - Due to his ability to reach audiences outside of the traditional Irish and folk music genre.
12. Having read this, what type of person do you think Christy Moore is? Give reasons for your answer.
- Pupils own responses, such as:**
- Christy is brave as he isn't afraid to write about serious issues and to express his opinions, even if they might be controversial.
  - Christy is talented as he is well known for a great range of songs from those that are funny, to soft ballads and songs with a serious meaning.
  - Christy is very successful as he has managed to have a long and successful career. He is popular with young and old and has influenced many successful artists.
  - Christy is very observant as he is able to write songs about things that are happening around him - from small and funny stories to serious issues like unemployment.