

Secrecy behind David Bowie's new album

14th January, 2013



Rock legend David Bowie has surprised the music world by releasing a new single on the Internet and accepting pre-order sales for his first new album in a decade. The single is called "Where Are We Now?" from the album "The Next Day". The

surprise was that no one had an inkling that Bowie was back in the studio recording new material, and had been for two years. Even the star's longtime producer Tony Visconti had been sworn to secrecy. He said: "We respected David's wishes....We didn't Tweet or put it on Facebook or even tell our best friends....I couldn't tell them. I knew if I told one of them, somebody would leak it and it would be all over the world in a day. I didn't even tell my children what I was doing."

Bowie, born Robert David Jones, released the new album on his 66th birthday. It is his 30th studio album in a career that spans almost five decades, in which he has sold 130 million albums. He is perhaps best known for pioneering what became known as glam rock - a pop music genre that emerged in Britain in the early 1970s. It was characterized by singers and musicians who wore outrageous clothes, makeup and hairstyles. Over the years, Bowie recorded many iconic tunes, including "Ziggy Stardust," "Heroes" and "Let's Dance". He has also appeared in 27 movies and was a modern art critic for a leading British newspaper. He had a heart attack in 2004, but his comeback allays concerns about his health.

Sources: *Hollywood Reporter* / *The Guardian*

Writing

The world would be a better place if we didn't have any secrets. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

rock legends / music world / studio / recording / secrecy / Facebook / best friend / leak / birthday / five decades / pioneering / music genre / outrageous clothes / modern art

True / False

- David Bowie's new album is his first in ten years. T / F
- Bowie recorded the whole album in two months to keep it a secret. T / F
- The producer of the album told his best friends about it last year. T / F
- The producer of the album didn't tell his kids about the new album. T / F
- Bowie had made 30 studio albums before recording his new one. T / F
- Bowie arrived late to the glam music scene in Britain in the 1970s. T / F
- Bowie acted in over 25 movies and was a modern art critic. T / F
- People worried about Bowie's health before he made his comeback. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. releasing | a. admired |
| 2. inkling | b. stretches |
| 3. sworn | c. flamboyant |
| 4. respected | d. bringing out |
| 5. leak | e. cutting-edge |
| 6. spans | f. promised |
| 7. pioneering | g. reduces |
| 8. emerged | h. idea |
| 9. outrageous | i. sprang up |
| 10. allays | j. revelation |

Discussion – Student A

- What does music mean to you?
- What do you know about David Bowie?
- What do you think of 66-year-old rockers?
- How difficult do you think it was to have kept the album a secret?
- Would you like to be a rock star?
- How do you feel when your favourite artists release a new album?
- How do you think Tony Visconti's children feel about not being told?
- Is it important to have varied musical tastes? Are you tastes varied?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. accepting pre- | a. recording new material |
| 2. no one had | b. art critic |
| 3. back in the studio | c. almost five decades |
| 4. We respected | d. an inkling |
| 5. somebody would leak it | e. clothes |
| 6. a career that spans | f. known as glam rock |
| 7. pioneering what became | g. order sales |
| 8. outrageous | h. concerns about his health |
| 9. a modern | i. and it would be all over |
| 10. allays | j. David's wishes |

Discussion – Student B

- Which is more important to you, music or TV?
- How prolific is your favourite recording artist?
- Would you like to (Do you) wear outrageous clothes, make-up, etc?
- Do you agree with Shakespeare that music is the food of love?
- What do you think of the music your parents listen to?
- Is today's music all the same?
- Why is it that music can change the way you feel?
- What questions would you like to ask David Bowie?

Spelling

- Rock lgeden David Bowie
- accepting err-opedr sales
- no one had an klinign
- the star's longtime epudrorc
- sworn to eyrsce
- We edecrepts David's wishes
- repiinngoe what became known as glam rock
- a pop music genre that edreegm
- uortusogea clothes
- ciocni tunes
- epaaedpr in 27 movies
- lsyala concerns about his health

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. h	3. f	4. a	5. j
6. b	7. e	8. i	9. c	10. g

Music Genres

With your partner(s), write a description of each of these genres. Change partners and share your ideas. Combine them into a new description.

GENRE	DESCRIPTION
Hip-hop	
Jazz	
Soul	
Classical	
Folk	
Rock 'n' Roll	

Speaking - Music

What do you like best? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------|-------------|
| • rock | • hip-hop |
| • pop | • jazz |
| • opera | • classical |
| • folk | • flamenco |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.