

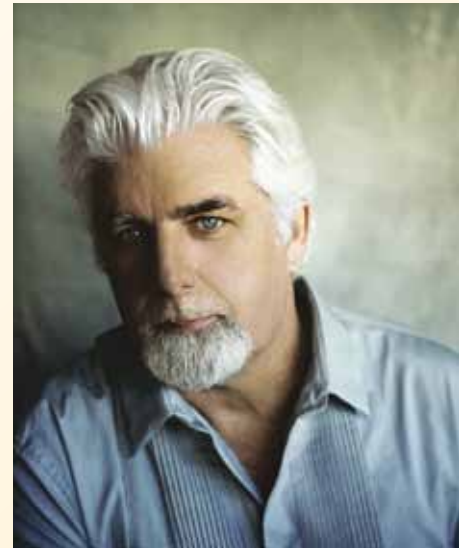
# ENTERTAINMENT

---

## AN EVENING WITH MICHAEL McDONALD

Michael McDonald has been a fixture in American pop music for over three decades. After emerging out of the local music scene in his hometown of St. Louis, Missouri, he first came into the spotlight as part of Steely Dan's touring band in the 1970s playing keyboards/piano and singing background vocals on the classic albums *Katy Lied*, *The Royal Scam*, *Aja*, and *Gaucho*.

While working with Steely Dan, McDonald joined the Doobie Brothers, where his voice became the group's focal point on such songs as *Takin' It to the Streets*, *Minute by Minute*, and on the Number One Single, *What a Fool Believes*, which won the 1980 Grammy Award for Song of the Year on the eponymous album that won 1980 Grammy Award for Record of the Year.



Now a five-time Grammy Award winner, Michael McDonald's lengthy solo career bursts with highlights and many memorable songs written and sung with other top names in music including *I Keep Forgettin' (Every Time You're Near)*, a duet with his sisters; *You Belong to Me*, co-written with Carly Simon; *Yah Mo B There*, a duet with James Ingram, which won the 1985 Grammy Award winner for Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals; the chart-topping *On My Own*, a duet with Patti Labelle; and *Ever Changin' Times*, a duet with Aretha Franklin; and the list goes on.

In addition to guest performances with the Doobie Brothers and Steely Dan reunion tours, McDonald was a member of the New York Rock and Soul Revue, put together by Steely Dan's Donald Fagen. In 2000, he created the independent recording label Ramp Records with partners Chris Pelonis and Jeff Bridges. In 2003, McDonald released the first of his two smash explorations of the Motown Records songbook – the platinum-selling *Motown*, which was nominated for two Grammy awards, and the next year's gold-selling *Motown Two*.

His most recent album *Soul Speak*, released in 2008, features three new Michael McDonald songs as well as McDonald's interpretation of 11 of his most loved songs. "These songs span my life—they're the ones where I can remember where I was when I first heard them, the ones that made me interested in becoming a recording artist, the songs I'd always imagined myself singing," he says. The new album proves McDonald isn't afraid to challenge expectations. "Everybody always wants you to keep doing what you did last time," he says. "You're always met with, 'Oh, you don't want to do that, you'll lose your fan base.' But I've found that whenever I got back on the radio, it was with something completely different from what I'd done before."

McDonald expects that his next project will be more focused on his own songwriting, but notes that his busy touring schedule makes it difficult. "More and more, if I'm not careful, I find that I'm out working all the time, and I have to search for any time to be able to woodshed and write."

For more information about Michael McDonald, his recording history, and his tour schedule, visit [www.michaelmcdonald.com](http://www.michaelmcdonald.com).