**Sam Smith – A biography**

Sam Smith was born on May 19, 1992, in London. A natural singer, Smith began performing and taking an interest in singing as a child. Throughout his teenage years, Smith studied music while at school at St. Mary's Catholic School in Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.

Smith’s first taste of success would come when the dance/electronica duo Disclosure released its 2012 song “Latch,” to which Smith lent his vocals. The track featured the singer’s melodic falsetto (high-pitched voice) over Disclosure’s electronic beat, and it immediately turned people on to the power of Smith’s voice. "Latch" reached the top of the UK singles chart when Smith was just 21, and he soon released his own single, “Lay Me Down.”

Smith’s next hit was again via a featured role on another artist’s song: Naughty Boy’s Bollywood-inspired "La La La." With Smith's lead vocal, the song became an instantly available No. 1 single in the UK. A few months later, in February 2014, Smith was again at the top of the UK singles chart with "Money on My Mind," and in May 2014, his full-length debut, *In the Lonely Hour*, was released in the UK.

That same month, Smith felt it was necessary to tell the world he was gay. “*In the Lonely Hour* is about a guy that I fell in love with last year, and he didn't love me back. ... I was in a very dark place.”

That ‘dark place’ has taken Smith to some very exciting, rewarding arenas. At the 2015 Grammy Awards, Smith took four awards: Best New Artist, Best Pop Vocal Album, Record of the Year and Song of the Year (“Stay With Me”). His world-wide success has made him a familiar name and face across the globe.

Smith continued to keep busy in 2015, releasing a re-recorded version of "Lay Me Down" as a duet with soul singer/songwriter [John Legend](http://www.biography.com/people/john-legend-201302). The track went to No. 1 in the UK charts while raising money for the charity, Comic Relief.

Smith recorded the most recent James Bond theme – the orchestral single "Writing's on the Wall" for the 007 film, *Spectre*. "Wall" received both a Golden Globe and an Academy Award in 2016, with Smith dedicating his Oscar win to LGBT communities across the globe.