

UB40 CAREER LANDMARKS

1978

A gang of eight boyhood friends form a band, UB40, in the Moseley area of Birmingham, initially playing covers of songs by their favourite reggae stars.

1979

The group make their live debut in February and spend the rest of the year writing songs and honing their live act through gigs in local pubs and clubs.

1980

The band are invited by Chrissie Hynde, of The Pretenders, to support her group on tour. UB40 release their debut single, King/Food For Thought on Graduate, a local independent. It goes on to make No. 4 in the chart. UB40's debut album, Signing Off, reaches No. 2.

1981

The band leave Graduate and set up their own label, Dep International. Their second album, Present Arms, replicates the success of their first, reaching No. 2 in the chart. One In Ten becomes their fourth Top Ten single in a year while Present Arms In Dub is the first dub album to enter the UK Top 40.

1982

Further hits follow in the shape of I Won't Close My Eyes, Love Is All Is Alright and So Here I Am.

1983

Labour Of Love, a homage to the reggae artists that inspired them, gives UB40 their first No. 1 album. It remains in the chart for 18 months. A single from the album, Red Red Wine, gives the band their first UK No.1 hit in August. Five years later, it tops the US chart.

1984

If It Happens Again gives the band their tenth Top 20 single

1985

UB40's cover of Sonny & Cher's I Got You Babe, a duet with Chrissie Hynde, gives the band their second British No. 1.

1986

UB40 bring reggae to the Russians in October by becoming one of the first Western groups to tour the Soviet Union. Their watershed concert in Moscow is recorded and released the following year as UB40 CCCP.

1987

The Best Of UB40 Volume 1 reaches No. 3 in the British albums chart and stays in the Top 40 for over two years.

1988

The group perform with Chrissie Hynde at the Free Nelson Mandela concert at Wembley in June. Another studio collaboration with the Pretenders singer, Breakfast In Bed, from the UB40 album, lands them another Top Ten.

1989

Labour Of Love II spawns a Top Ten single in the band's cover of the Chi-Lites classic Homely Girl.

1990

Two further Top Ten singles follow in covers of Kingston Town and Bob Dylan's I'll Be Your Baby Tonight.

1992

One In Ten becomes the first UB40 hit to reach the Top 20 for a second time, thanks to a re-mix by Manchester dance act 808 State.

1993

Promises And Lies becomes the group's biggest album to date, selling an incredible 9 million copies worldwide. The album produces another huge hit in Can't Help Falling In Love, which gives the band their third UK No. 1 and their second chart-topper in America.

1994

UB40 play before record audiences, totalling 250,000, in South Africa.

1995

Until My Dying Day becomes the band's 24th Top 20 single in Britain.

1997

UB40 release their twelfth studio album, Guns In The Ghetto, which reaches No. 7 in the UK charts. 'Tell Me Is It True' the first single taken from the album peaks at No. 14.

1998

UB40 work with modern reggae stars, including Beenie Man and Lady Saw, on The Dancehall Album, and issue the third volume of Labour Of Love, an album with another Top Ten single in Come Back Darling.

1999

UB40 play before an estimated television audience of one billion in India.

2000

UB40 complete the European Night Of The Proms tour with Chrissie Hynde, Coolio, Alessandro Saffina and an 120 piece orchestra and choir.

2001

The band release a new studio album, Cover Up, and mark the 21st anniversary of Signing Off with a British tour and a celebratory birthday concert at the NEC in Birmingham. The net profits of the show are donated to the United Nations AIDS Awareness Campaign.

2002

The Fathers Of Reggae album features guests, including Gregory Isaacs, Ken Boothe, Mighty Diamonds and John Holt, singing the songs of UB40. Following their visits to the USSR and South Africa, UB40 play another landmark gig, this time at a peace festival in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo.

2003

UB40 receive an Ivor Novello Award for International Achievement and secure a Top Ten album with The Platinum Collection, a triple box set comprising the whole Labour Of Love series. Their 22nd album, Homegrown, includes Swing Low, the England rugby team's official song for their victorious 2003 World Cup campaign in Australia. The song becomes the group's 49th UK chart single. The only bands to have notched more hits are The Shadows, Status Quo and Queen.

2004

The band tour Homegrown around the world and complete a critically-acclaimed live DVD, Homegrown In Holland. They return to Birmingham and start work on a new album, cutting it in the traditional manner as an eight-piece band playing together in the studio.

2005

On the 25th anniversary of their debut single and album, UB40 unveil their 23rd album, Who You Fighting For. They unite with Eric Clapton and Roger Daltrey to play their first ever show at the Royal Albert Hall, in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust and perform at Live8 in Hyde Park on 2nd July. A successful sell-out arena tour in the UK, Ireland and Europe completes the year.

2006

Touring continues in January, taking in Mozambique, Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands (New Caledonia, Tahiti, Tonga and Fiji) Hawaii and continuing on to the US and Canada. The band return to the UK at the end of April to perform a series of outdoor shows at various forest locations throughout the country.

2007

The 'Who You Fighting For' album is nominated for the 'Best Reggae Album' at this year's 49th Annual Grammy Awards. A heavy tour schedule continues: Argentina, Barbados, Ghana, South Africa (along with a performance at the Live Earth concert in Johannesburg), Nigeria, Canada, USA, Europe, Ireland and UK. The 10-track 'Dub Sessions' album is released - a limited edition dub album.

2008

Ali Campbell leaves the band to embark on a solo career. The other band members continue as UB40 with a new album 'Twentyfourseven' released in June.

2009

UB40 'Love Songs' (a collection of UB40's best loved songs) released in February reaches no. 3 on the UK album charts. Forthcoming tour dates include trips to USA, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland and Spain.

For further information on UB40

www.ub40.co.uk