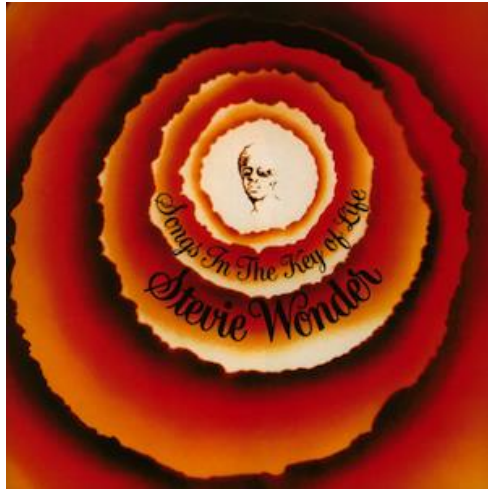


Songs In The Key Of Life

Hayley Jackson



The Album *Songs In The Key Of Life* by Stevie Wonder was his eighteenth album recorded and was released on September, 28 1976. It was ranked at number 57 in *Rolling Stone* magazine's 500 Greatest Albums of all time.

The working title was originally called *Let's See Life the Way It Is* a name was finally chosen for the album resulting in *Songs In the Key Of Life*, the title which would represent the meaning "key of life" and the proposals for indefinite success.

Once the album was released after a two year wait period it debuted at number 1 on the *Billboard* Pop Album's chart on October 8, 1976 becoming the first American artist to achieve that.

The album spent thirteen consecutive weeks in the number 1 spot in the U.S. *Songs In the Key Of Life* was the second best-selling album in the year of 1977 only behind Fleetwood Mac's album *Rumours*, the album sold 10 million copies in the U.S alone and was the highest selling R&B/Soul album of the year.

The song "I Wish" which was an up-beat song which focused on his childhood in the 1950's to early 1960's and it was the first single of the album, released in November, 1976 over a month after it released it reached the number 1 spot, staying in the top for five weeks.

The jazzy "Sir Duke" was the follow-up single it surpassed "I Wish" in commercial success when it was released in March 1977 and also reached number one on the *Billboard* Hot 100 spending three weeks at the top starting on May 21. It was also number two in the UK only kept

off the top spot by the song “Free” by Deniece Williams. Sir Duke was written in tribute to Duke Ellington, the influential jazz legend who had passed in 1974.

Though “Isn’t She Lovely” was not released as a single it received wide airplay and became one of Wonder’s most popular songs, the song was written in celebration of the birth of his daughter, Aisha the recording starts with an audio of a baby being born.

On February 19, 1977, Stevie was nominated for seven Grammy Awards winning four of the awards nominated for. In 2013 Stevie Wonder did a live concert performing all songs off the album, at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles

