

Studio 3 ~ Research

The Singing Ringing Tree, Billy Joel, Singer/Songwriter

By Mari Pokorny

Instrument: The Singing Ringing Tree

- **Location:** Pennine hills in Lancashire England
- **Designed by:** Mike Tonkin and Anna Liu (Architects of Tonkin Liu)
- **Completed in 2007**
- **Part of a series of 4 structures**
- **The harmonic and singing sounds are produced by the tuning of pipes based on lengths and the adding holes.**



The Singing Ringing Tree

Materials:

- Made of galvanized steel mounted into a tree like structure. As wind passes by, the pipes produce a song.
- 10 feet tall!



The Singing Ringing Tree



How is it played?

- Self-played instrument
- Powered by wind (input)

As the wind swirls around the tree sculpture on the hill, it sings a tune.

Being 10 feet tall, it captures the wind and creates an ongoing choral hum of many different octaves (output).

The Singing Ringing Tree VIDEO



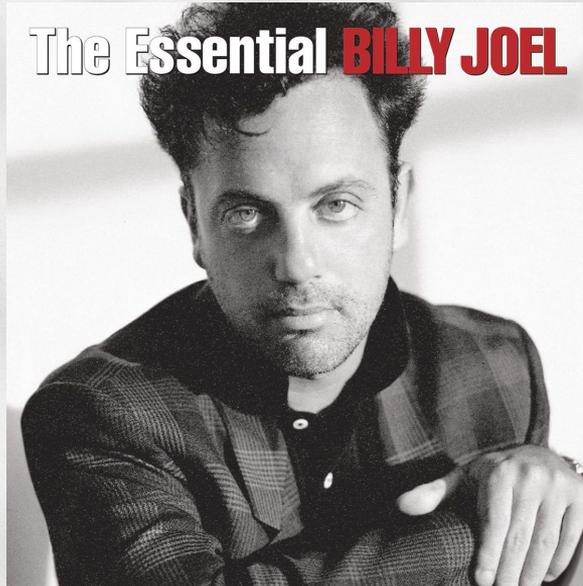
Composer: Billy Joel

FACTS:

- Bullies inspired him to become a boxer
 - As an adolescence, he joined teenage street gangs and started to box.
 - Fought 22 fights
- His song 'Vienna' is about a trip to see his father.
- He's an atheist but he believes in ghosts.
- He graduated high school at age 43 (1992)
- He has outsold Michael Jackson.



Billy Joel Timeline



- Born: 1949 (70 years young and still performing the same songs everyone loves)
- Raised in Long Island
- 1953 (age 4) he began to play piano
- 1964 After seeing the Beatles on The Ed Sullivan Show, he decided to fully pursue music
- At age 16, played the piano for the Echoes (a vocal trio) for 2 years
- In 1971, he released his first album 'Cold Spring Harbor'

Billy Joel

Genre: Rock, Soft Rock, and American singer-songwriter

Top Songs:

- **Piano Man (1973)**
- **Captain Jack (1973)**
- **Vienna (1977)**
- **It's Still Rock and Roll to Me (1980)**
- **Uptown Girl (1983)**
- **We Didn't Start the Fire (1989)**



Billy Joel ~ Favorite Song



Uptown Girl



Piano Man

Genre: Singer/Songwriter



- Musicians who write, compose, and sing their own music
- They often provide a single accompaniment to their songs, typically using a guitar or piano
- Some countries don't consider Singer Songwriter a genre
- Since 1960s in Russia, S/S was a genre
 - Defined by one musician as “not music, but the way to perform your own poetry”.

Bob Dylan

Singer/Songwriter ~ Origin & History

A term used since the late 1950s to describe mainly American and British composer, often whom have roots in folk, country and blues.

Popular genre in the 1970s with Bob Dylan and Joni Mitchell. Billy Joel and Elton John were big in the 1980s



Genre: Singer/Songwriter

What makes it unique?

- Usually the lyrics are personal and the instrument(s) used are simple
- Has sub-genres
 - Acoustic Pop
 - Stomp and Holler
 - Indie Pop
 - Folk
 - Neo Mellow
 - Indie Anthem Folk



James Taylor

Singer/Songwriter VIDEO

James Taylor

'Fire and Rain', Live 1970



Thanks!