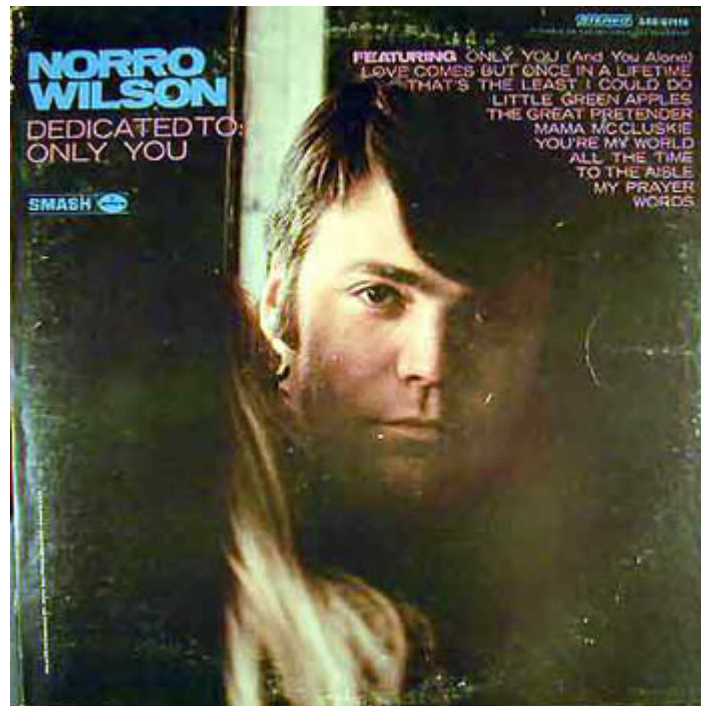




## 2008 Induction Class



### **Norro Wilson**

Birth Name: Norris D. Wilson

Induction Year: 1996

Date of Birth: 4/4/1938

Place of Birth: Scottsville, KY

Education: Grade School--Scottsville Grade School

High School--Scottsville High School

College--Western State Teachers College

Norro Wilson's fame as a record producer sometimes obscures the fact that he first made a name for himself as a singer and songwriter. Born in Scottsville, Kentucky, in 1938, Norris D. Wilson began his musical odyssey in 1957 as a member of the group Southlanders. In 1962, he began writing songs for Acuff-Rose. He recorded

for several labels during the '60s and '70s, but only one of his singles-"Do It To Someone You Love"-reached the Top 20.

Wilson scored consistently as a songwriter, however, co-writing such hits as "The Most Beautiful Girl," a No. 1 for Charlie Rich on both the country and pop charts; "A Very Special Love Song," which won a Grammy as best country song; and "The Grand Tour," a No. 1 for George Jones in 1974 and a Top 40 for Aaron Neville in 1993. Other Wilson standards include "Soul Song," Joe Stampley's first No. 1, and "Another Lonely Song," a chart-topper for Tammy Wynette.

Among the country royalty for whom Wilson has produced records are Charley Pride, George Jones, Reba McEntire, Buck Owens, Janie Fricke, John Anderson, Sammy Kershaw, Mindy McCready and Shania Twain. He was elected to Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1996.

*"I think the song is more important than anything else, because it becomes a catalyst for a person's career." "I am now writing one song a year. My last song, "Rockin' in the Arms of Your Memory Tonight," cowritten with Dean Dillon, was recorded by George Strait. My new song, "It Don't Get Any Better Than This," cowritten with Buddy Cannon and Max D. Barnes, was just recorded as a vocal event by George Jones with vocal appearances by Merle Haggard, Waylon Jennings, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, and Fats Domino." (from questionnaire)*

### **Career Milestones:**

1957--performed in group Southlanders

1962--first publishing contract with Acuff-Rose

1960s--recording contract with Mercury

1968--first major cut, "Baby, Baby I Know You're a Lady" recorded by David Houston

1973--Charlie Rich's recording of "The Most Beautiful Girl" went to #1 on both the pop and country charts

1976--began work with Warner Brothers; became head of A&R

1980s--produced a number of artists including Charley Pride (had seven #1 cuts in a row), Reba McEntire, Mickey Gilley, George Jones, Buck Owens, Gary Morris, Janie Fricke, John Anderson, Rex Allen Jr., Margo Smith, and Con Hunley

1982--began work with RCA

1983--began operation of first publishing company, Merit Music

1991--continued production of artists including Sammy Kershaw, Shania Twain, George Jones, Mindy McCready, Keith Gattis, and Chad Brock

### **Awards:**

1973--BMI\Country Songwriter of the Year

1974--BMI\Country Songwriter of the Year

1974--Grammy\Best Country Song\A Very Special Love Song

1975--BMI\Country Songwriter of the Year

**Catalog Highlights:**

***The Most Beautiful Girl***

Co-writer: Rory Bourke, Billy Sherrill

Artists: Charlie Rich (1973)

***A Very Special Love Song***

Co-writer: Billy Sherrill

Artists: Charlie Rich (1974)

***A Picture of Me Without You***

Co-writer: George Richey

Artists: George Jones (1972), Lorrie Morgan (1991)

***The Grand Tour***

Co-writer: Carmol Taylor, George Richey

Artists: George Jones (1974), Aaron Neville (1993)

***Surround Me With Love***

Co-writer: Wayland Holyfield

Artists: Charley McClain

***Another Lonely Song***

Co-writer: Dennis Walker, Tammy Wynette

***I Love My Friend***

Artists: Charlie Rich (1974)

***I'll See Him Through***

Artists: Tammy Wynette (1970)

***Baby, Baby (I Know You're A Lady)***

Artists: David Houston (1970)

***Soul Song***

Artists: Joe Stampley (1973)

He Loves Me All the Year

Artists: Tammy Wynette (1970)

***I Wish I Had a Mama Like You***

Artists: Patti Page

***Hold On to the Love I Got***

Artists: Barbara Mandrell

***If You Touch Me***

Artists: Joe Sampley

***July 12, 1939***

Artists: Charlie Rich

**Comments:**

Recorded as a solo act for Monument Records

Managed the Nashville branch of Al Gallico Music Corp.

Has earned 39 BMI Awards

Has received BMI One Million performance awards for "Most Beautiful Girl," "My Man," "Never Been So Loved In My Life," "Picture of Me Without You," and "Very Special Love Song"