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British-Canadian musician This biography of a living person needs additional quotes for verification. Please help by adding reliable sources. Litigation materials about living persons who do not come or do not come from badly should be disposed of immediately, especially if they are potentially libelous or harmful. Find sources: David Clayton-Thomas - news - newspapers - books - scholar - JSTOR (August 2015) (Learn and when to remove this template message) David Clayton-ThomasClayton-Thomas performing at Gulfstream Park in Hallandale, FloridaBackground informationBirth nameDavid Henry ThomsettBorn (1941-09-13) September 13, 1941 (79 years)Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, EnglandGenresR&B, rock, funk, pop, jazzOccupation(s)Singer, musician, songwriter, disc producerInstrumentsVocals, guitarYears activeEarly 1960s–presentAssociated actsBlood, Sweat & TearsWebsitedavidclaytonthomas.com David Clayton-Thomas (born David Henry Thomsett, September 13, 1941) is a Grammy-winning Canadian musician, singer and songwriter, best known as lead singer of the American band Blood, Sweat & Tears. Clayton-Thomas was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame and in 2007 his jazz/rock composition Spinning Wheel was established in the Canadian Songwriter's Hall of Fame. In 2010 Clayton-Thomas received his star on the Walk of Fame in Canada. Clayton-Thomas began his music career in the early 1960s, working at the Yonge Street clubs in Toronto, where he discovered his love of singing and singing the blues. Before moving to New York City in 1967, Clayton-Thomas faced local bands, first The Shays and then The Bossmen, one of the oldest rock bands with significant jazz influences. But the real success came only a few years later, when he joined Blood, Sweat & Tears. Clayton-Thomas's first album with the band, Blood, Sweat & Tears (which was released in December 1968) – despite its eponymous title, was actually the band's second album – sold ten million copies worldwide. The record reached number one on the Billboard album chart for seven weeks and reached number one on the charts for 109 weeks. He won five Grammy Awards, including Album of the Year and Best Performance by a male vocalist. It featured three hits, You've Made Me So Very Happy, Spinning Wheel, and And I Die (on the Hot 100, each reached No 2 and lasted 13 weeks), as well as a rendition of Billie Holiday's God Bless The Child. [1] With Clayton-Thomas at the head of the band, BS&T continued with a string of hits, including Blood, Sweat & Tears 3, in which Carole King starred Hi-De-Ho and Lucretia MacEvil by Clayton-Thomas, and Blood, Sweat & Tears 4, which produced another Clayton-Thomas single, Go Down In 1972. Thomas released his first Columbia solo album after BS&T, simply titled David Clayton Thomas. In 1973, his second solo album The sunrise was issued by Columbia. In 1974 he released the album Harmony Junction on RCA. In 1975, Thomas returned to The Columbia New City and, in 1976, More Ever. In 1977 they launched Brand New Day on the ABC label. In 1978 Thomas released another solo album on ABC, simply titled Clayton. In 1980 BS&T released the album MMA Nuclear Blues, of which Thomas was a member. Later in the decade Columbia issued double live BS&T album Live And Improved again with Thomas. In 2004, Clayton-Thomas left New York for Toronto and released a 10-track all-star band. Since then, he has toured and recorded nearly a dozen albums in his name. Life and Career This section is largely or entirely based on a single source. The relevant discussion can be found on the discussion page. Please help improve this article by introducing quotes into additional sources. Find sources: David Clayton-Thomas - news - newspapers - books - scholar - JSTOR (August 2015) Clayton-Thomas was born in Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, England, the son of Fred Thomsett, a decorated Canadian soldier from World War II. Clayton-Thomas' mother, Freda May (née Smith), played the piano and met Thomsett when he came to entertain the troops at a London hospital. After the war, the family settled in Willowdale, Toronto. From the beginning, Clayton-Thomas and his father had a difficult relationship. When Clayton-Thomas was 14, he had left home and slept in parked cars and abandoned buildings and stole food and clothing to survive. He was arrested several times for vagrancy, petty theft, and street brawls and spent his teenage years jumping in and out of various prisons and reformers, including Burwash Industrial Farm. [2] He inherited his love of music from his mother, and when an old guitar came into his possession, left behind by an outgoing inmate, he began to learn to sing. After his release from detention in 1962, he gravitated on the strip on Yonge Street in Toronto. Rhythm & Blues was the favorite music on tape, and Arkansas rockable pioneer Ronnie Hawkins recognized the formidable talent of young 'Sonny' Thomas and took him under his wing. It wasn't long before he saw his troops. The first was named David Clayton Thomas and Fabulous Shays. During this time, he changed his last name to put some distance between his new life and his troubled teenage years. In 1964 Clayton-Thomas and The Shays recorded a performance of John Lee Hooker's Boom Boom. This led to a New York commitment to Shays on NBC-TV's Hllabaloo at the invitation of his host, Paul Anka. Abandoning the bars on the strip, Clayton-Thomas began singing in the cafés of Yorkville Village. It was in the local jazz & blues scene dominated by John Lee. Lee. Joe Williams, Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee, Lenny Breau, Oscar Peterson and Moe Koffman. Clayton-Thomas made his mark stronger with his next band, The Bossmen, one of the first rock bands to include jazz musicians. In 1966 he toured and performed the R&B-led anti-war song Brainwashed, which became a major Canadian hit, reaching 11th place on the NATIONAL RPM rankings. One night in 1966, after hanging out with blues singer John Lee Hooker in Yorkville, Clayton-Thomas went with him to New York. They played a Greenwich Village club for a few weeks; Hooker then went to Europe, and Clayton-Thomas stayed in New York. He survived playing basket houses, where artists were given a few minutes of time on stage and then passed the basket. Popular music singer Judy Collins heard Clayton-Thomas one night at a downtown club and told her boyfriend, drummer Bobby Colomby, about him. Bobby's band, Blood Sweat & Leaves, broke up four months after the release of Columbia's debut album, Child Is Father to the Man. They took the reformed group to Cafe Au Go-Go in the Village. In his 1974 autobiography, Clive: Inside the Record Business, Clive Davis, then president of Columbia Records, described his initial impression of Clayton-Thomas singing at Café Au Go-Go: He was amazing... a heavily constructed singer who exuded enormous earthy confidence. He jumped right at you. I went with a small group of people, and we were electrified. It seemed so authentic, so from the command of the lyrics... a perfect combination of fire and emotion to go with the band's somewhat cerebral call. I knew he'd be a strong figure. BS&T continued with a string of hits, including Blood, Sweat & Tears 3, which featured Clayton-Thomas' Lucretia MacEvil and Carole King's Hi-De-Ho and BS&T 4, which produced another Clayton-Thomas hit, Go Down Gamblin. Blood Sweat & Losses' Album Greatest Hits has hit the latest to more than seven million copies in worldwide sales. [citation required] BS&T has reached major venues around the world: the Royal Albert Hall, Metropolitan Opera House, Hollywood Bowl, Madison Square Garden and Caesar's Palace, as well as Newport Jazz Festival and Woodstock. It was the first contemporary band to pass the Iron Curtain with the historic tour sponsored by the United States Department of State in Eastern Europe in May and June 1970). In the early years Clayton-Thomas lived on the road, traveling all over Europe, Australia, Asia, South America, the US and Canada with BS&T. Constant tours began to pay their toll. Clayton-Thomas left the band in 1972, exhausted by life on the road. Up to 1970s, founding members began to move away to start families and watch their own musical. Musical. Discography Albums Year Album Record Label 1969 David Clayton-Thomas! Decca 1972 David Clayton-Thomas Columbia 1972 Tequila Sunrise Columbia 1973 David Clayton-Thomas (Harmony Junction) RCA 1977 Clayton ABC Music 1996 Blue Plate Special DCT 1999 Bloodlines DCT 2001 Christmas Album Fontana North / Maplec 2005 Aurora Justin Time 2006 In concert: A Musical Biography Justin Time 2008 The Evergreens Fontana North / Maplec 2009 Spectrum 2010 Soul Ballads Fuel 2013 A Blues for the New World Antoinette 2015 Combo Audio & Video Labs, Inc. 2016 Canadiana Antoinette / Ils / Universal 2018 Mobius Ils 2019 Say Somethin' Antoinette Singles 'Boom Boom' No. July 16, 1964 CHUM Walk That Walk No. 3 April 1965 CAN/No. 28 CHUM Take Me Back No. 39 July 1965 CHUM Out of the Sunshine No. 32 September 1965 CHUM Brainwashed No. 11 July 1966 CAN / No. 6 CHUM See also Music portal Canada portal David Clayton-Thomas Show Canadian Rock Music from Canada Sources Clayton-Thomas, David (June 2010). Blood, sweat and tears. Penguin Canada. ISBN 978-0-14-317599-5 Davis, Clive (December 1975). Clive: Inside the business record. Ballantine Books. ISBN 978-0345247605 LeBlanc, Larry; David Clayton-Thomas (artist's biography) <http: davidclaytonthomas.com/=> Bloomfield, Michael (September 2000). If you like these blues: an oral history (first ed.). Backbeat Books. ISBN 978-0-87930-617-5. (with unissued music CD) Brooks, Ken (February 1999). The adventures of Mike Bloomfield and Al Kooper with Paul Butterfield and David Clayton Thomas. Agenda Ltd. ISBN 978-1-899882-90-8. Kooper, Al (February 1977). Backstage Passes: Rock 'N' Roll Life in the 60s (first ed.). Stein & Day Pub. ISBN 978-0-8128-2171-0. Kooper, Al (September 1998). Backstage Pass and Backstabbing Bastards: Memoirs of a Rock 'N' Roll Survivor (updated ed.). Billboard Books. ISBN 978-0-8230-8257-5. Kooper, Al (February 2008). Backstage Passes and Backstabbing Bastards (new ed.). Hal Leonard Corporation. ISBN 978-0-87930-922-0. 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