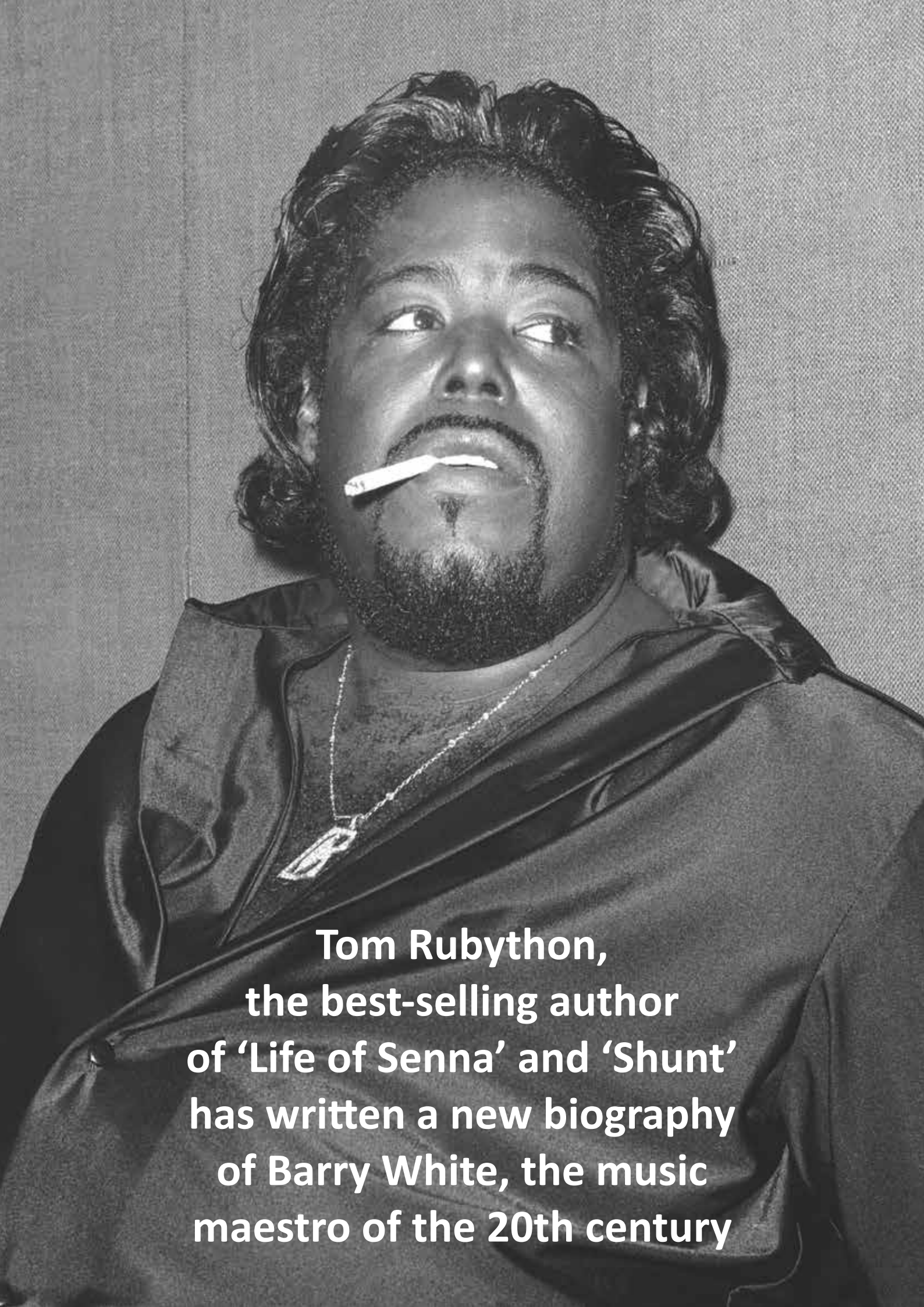


TOM RUBYTHON



White  
Music

THE BARRY WHITE STORY



**Tom Rubython,  
the best-selling author  
of 'Life of Senna' and 'Shunt'  
has written a new biography  
of Barry White, the music  
maestro of the 20th century**

## **Childhood**

Raised in extreme poverty in Los Angeles  
A child piano prodigy at the age of 4

## **Youth**

Violent gang banger  
Stole over 200 cars  
Spent seven months in prison  
Held on suspicion of murder  
Brother gets 50 years for murder  
Fathered four children before age of 18

## **10-year struggle to succeed**

Goes straight after hearing Elvis Presley  
sing It's Now or Never in prison  
Works in a toy shop for two years  
Does any job he can to feed his family  
Gets start in music business by running errands  
Meets Glodean James and her two friends  
Forms the Love Unlimited girl band  
Breakthrough single - Walking in the Rain  
Discovers his own voice as a performer  
He has his first hit album in 1973

## **10 years at the top**

Releases: You're the First The Last My Everything  
The song is a massive worldwide hit  
Barry White is world's best-selling artist in 1974  
He has seven years of hit after hit albums  
In 1980 he sells over 100m albums and CDs

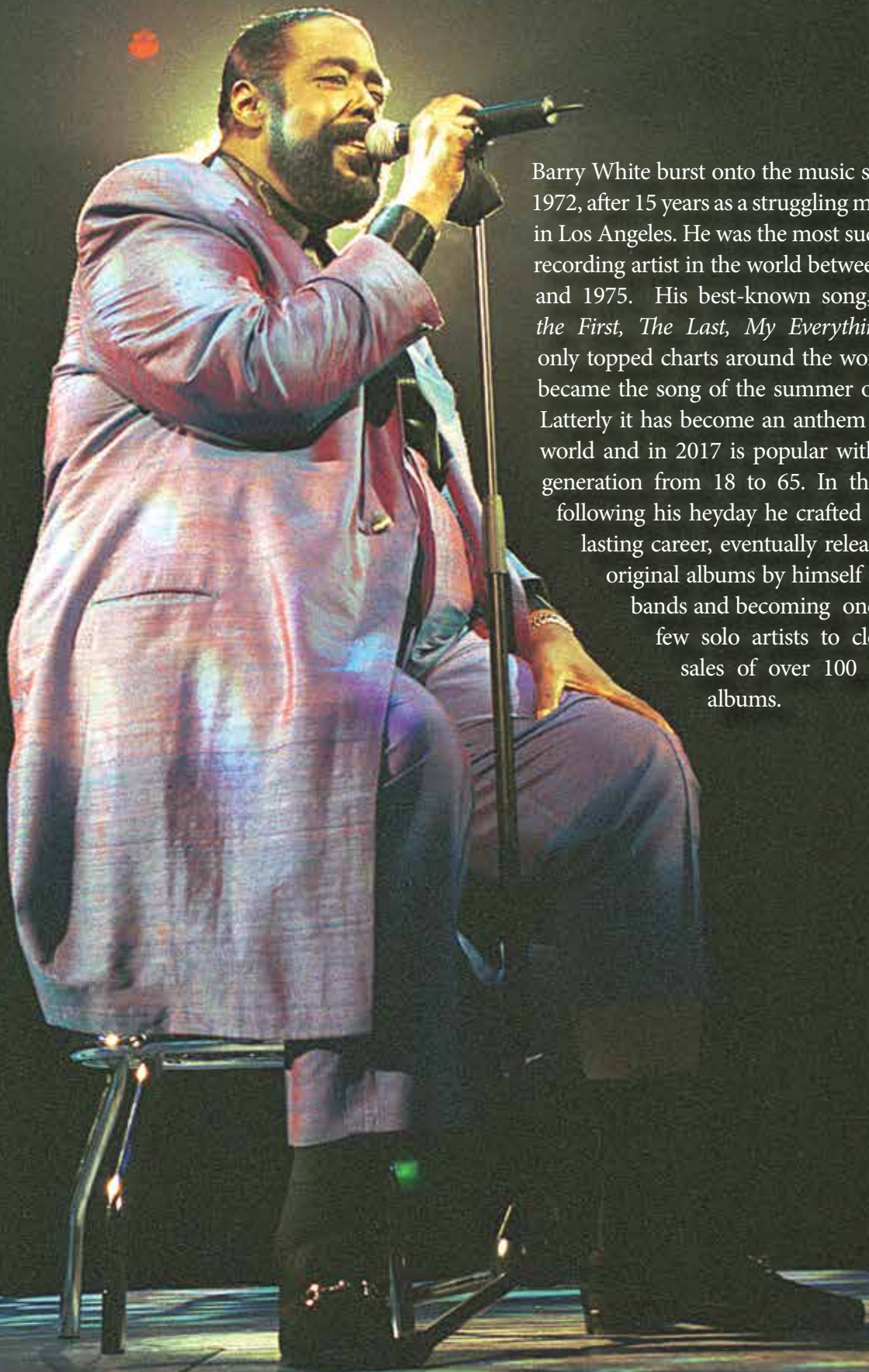
## **17 years of slow decline**

His style of music goes out of fashion  
Splits with wife, Glodean after 18 years  
Nearly goes bankrupt after money setbacks  
Rebuilds life and his albums start selling again  
Performs at concerts round the world

## **Physical decline and death**

35 years of smoking 60 cigarettes a day catches up with him  
Goes into hospital and spends four days in coma  
Diagnosed at 50 with extreme high blood pressure  
Performs in front of millions whilst seriously ill  
Dies in bed amidst family rifts  
Leaves no will and girlfriend of 12 yrs left penniless

# The Barry White Story



Barry White burst onto the music scene in 1972, after 15 years as a struggling musician in Los Angeles. He was the most successful recording artist in the world between 1973 and 1975. His best-known song, *You're the First, The Last, My Everything*, not only topped charts around the world, but became the song of the summer of 1974. Latterly it has become an anthem for the world and in 2017 is popular with every generation from 18 to 65. In the years following his heyday he crafted a long-lasting career, eventually releasing 35 original albums by himself and his bands and becoming one of the few solo artists to clock up sales of over 100 million albums.

# A story to end all stories...

**CHAPTER 1: The End Came**  
*Death of the maestro*

**CHAPTER 2: The Errant Father**  
*The beginning of Barry White*

**CHAPTER 3: Musical Awakening**  
*Talent shows through at early age*

**CHAPTER 4: Growing Up in South LA**  
*Youth*

**CHAPTER 5: The Voice Emerges**  
*All change at 14*

**CHAPTER 6: Guided by Destiny**  
*A love affair begins with astrology*

**CHAPTER 7: A Criminal Goes to Jail**  
*Barry White goes out of control*

**CHAPTER 8: Epiphany**  
*Release from juvenile prison*

**CHAPTER 9: Meeting Mary**  
*Emotional meltdown and alcoholism*

**CHAPTER 10: A Murdering Brother**  
*Childhood marred*

**CHAPTER 11: Seconds From Oblivion**  
*A narrow escape*

**CHAPTER 12: Marriage to Mary**  
*A proper family and four children*

**CHAPTER 13: Break Out**  
*First chance in the music business*

**CHAPTER 14: Going to Hollywood**  
*A paid job at last*

**CHAPTER 15: Two Year Funk**  
*Ups and downs of life*

**CHAPTER 16: Meeting Gene Page**  
*The first game changer*

**CHAPTER 17: The Mustang Bronco Years**  
*Bob Keane leads to Larry Nunes*

**CHAPTER 18: Split from Mary**  
*The final schism*

**CHAPTER 19: Turning down Motown**  
*Meeting Aaron and Abby Schroeder*

**CHAPTER 20: The Love is Unlimited**  
*Meeting the three girls*

**CHAPTER 21: Making It Happen**  
*Creating Love Unlimited*

**CHAPTER 22: Loving Glodean**  
*Getting it right second time around*

**CHAPTER 23: A Moment of Creative Truth**  
*With Love Unlimited in the studio*

**CHAPTER 24: So Much To Give**  
*Enter Barry White, the singer*

**CHAPTER 25: A Shocking Rejection**  
*Russ Regan says 'no' and then 'yes'*

**CHAPTER 26: Under the Influence**  
*The second Love Unlimited album*

**CHAPTER 27: Stone Gon'**  
*Second solo album – October 1973*

**CHAPTER 28: Rhapsody In Genius**  
*Sheer orchestral brilliance*

**CHAPTER 29: Feel the Heat**  
*In Heat - third Love Unlimited album*

**CHAPTER 30: Divorce and Remarriage**  
*A proper family at last*

**CHAPTER 31: The Signature Song**  
*The breakthrough single - 1974*

**CHAPTER 32: Can't Get Enough**  
*Third solo album – August 1974*

**CHAPTER 33: Two More Orchestras**  
*Rounding off an extraordinary 1974*

**CHAPTER 34: Just Another Way to Say**  
*Fourth solo album – March 1975*

**CHAPTER 35: Prolific Producer**  
*Protégés fail to break though*

**CHAPTER 36: Larry Nunes retires**  
*Barry's mentor is ruined*

**CHAPTER 37: Barry Builds Barryland**  
*Moving to dream house in Sherman Oaks*

**CHAPTER 38: Money and Horses**  
*All to play for*

**CHAPTER 39: The Music Bursts Out**  
*So many melodies*

**CHAPTER 40: Family Bliss**  
*10 years together in harmony*

**CHAPTER 41: Let the Music Play**  
*Fifth and sixth solo albums – 1975 and 1976*

**CHAPTER 42: On Tour in the Seventies**  
*A joyful time for all*

**CHAPTER 43: Sings For Someone You Love**  
*Seventh solo album – August 1977*

**CHAPTER 44: The Death of Larry Nunes**  
*Only 48 and gone from a heart attack*

**CHAPTER 45: The Man**  
*Eighth solo album – September 1978*

**CHAPTER 46: A Label of His Own At Last**  
*Ground-breaking but flawed deal with CBS*

**CHAPTER 47: I Love to Sing the Songs**  
*Ninth solo album and last with Twentieth*

**CHAPTER 48: Unlimited Gold Takes Shape**  
*Barry White's musical revolution*

**CHAPTER 49: The Message is Love**  
*First album at CBS – 1979*

**CHAPTER 50: Sheet Music**  
*11th solo album – 1980*

**CHAPTER 51: Barry & Glodean**  
*12th solo album is a duet with wife – 1981*

**CHAPTER 52: Beware of Change**  
*13th solo album - 1981*

**CHAPTER 53: Darryl Dies**  
*The end of a brother – 1982*

**CHAPTER 54: Dedicated to Change**  
*14th and 15th solo albums – 1982 and 1983*

**CHAPTER 55: Harmony of Purpose**  
*A lifelong obsession with astrology*

**CHAPTER 56: Death of a Friend**  
*Marvin Gaye is murdered by his father*

**CHAPTER 57: Down But Not Out**  
*Upheaval and withdrawal*

**CHAPTER 58: A New Label**  
*A pseudo rapper emerges*

**CHAPTER 59: The End of the Affair**  
*Split from Glodean and secret daughter*

**CHAPTER 60: The Man Is Back**  
*Avoiding a career ending crisis*

**CHAPTER 61: Extra-Curricular Music**  
*Put Me in Your Mix 18th solo album - 1991*

**CHAPTER 62: Disaster At Sherman Oaks**  
*Northridge earthquake shatters dream house*

**CHAPTER 63: New House, Album, Start**  
*Move to Las Vegas and the icon album*

**CHAPTER 64: Life and Death Setbacks**  
*Health fails and Sadie and Gene die*

**CHAPTER 65: Staying Power**  
*20th and final solo album*

**CHAPTER 66: Near the End**  
*The final years*

**CHAPTER 67: The Last**  
*The end of Barry White*

**CHAPTER 68: Making Love With Barry**  
*A passion for what he sang*

*White Music, the biography of Barry White, is published in hardback on Thursday 12th October 2017.*

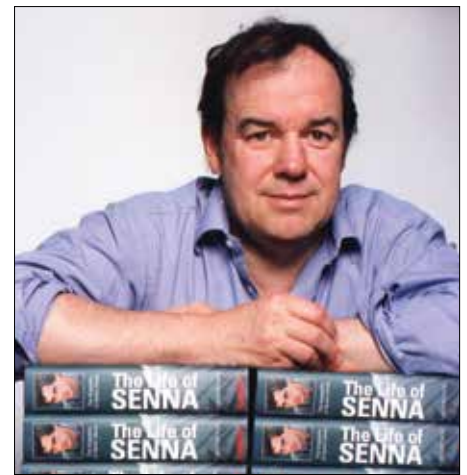
# About the author

## TOM RUBYTHON

White Music, the story of Barry White, is Tom Rubython's sixth major biography following his best-selling life stories of Irish businessman Tony O'Reilly, race drivers Ayrton Senna and James Hunt, film actor Richard Burton and 1920s financier, Jesse Livermore.

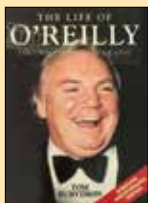
Starting out as a market trader, Rubython edited magazines and newspapers including Marketeer, Amusement Business, LeisureWeek, BusinessAge, Sunday Business, EuroBusiness, F1 Magazine, BusinessF1, SportsPro

and Spectator Business before becoming a full-time author and book publisher in 2009. His books are published around the world and sales have now exceeded one million copies. His most successful, The Life of Senna, has sold over 350,000 copies in the English language alone. Shunt, the story of British racing driver James Hunt, now has sales approaching 150,000 copies. White Music is his first foray into the world of music and it takes the same approach as his previous biographies - a passionate and methodical approach to the



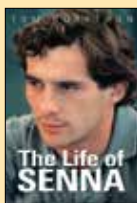
process of researching and writing a book with a determination to tell the full story, emphasising what is important and de-emphasising what is not, the two skills he believes are the crucial tools of any biographer.

## MAJOR BIOGRAPHIES BY TOM RUBYTHON



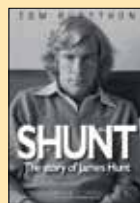
The Life of O'Reilly published in 1995 was Tom's first biography:

4,000 hardbacks were printed and they sold out virtually on the first day. It tells the story of the Irish entrepreneur Tony O'Reilly, back then Ireland's most successful businessman and how he cut a swathe through the American and Irish business communities.



The Life of Senna, the story of Ayrton Senna, was five years in the making

and published on the tenth anniversary of his death. The Life of Senna has sold nearly 500,000 copies, in all formats, around the world. It is the biggest selling third party biography of a racing driver ever. Twenty years later it is still selling 30,000 copies a year.



Shunt, the story of British world champion driver and playboy

James Hunt is the second biggest selling third party biography of a racing driver ever. Interest in James Hunt, a forgotten man back in 2010, was reignited by this book and a Hollywood movie about his life called Rush was the result.



And God Created Burton, the biography of actor Richard Burton,

was Tom's first biography of an actor and his biggest book at nearly 700 pages. Ironically it only sold 21,000 copies. It endures today however and serious and unbiased critics regard it as the best ever book written about the Welsh actor.



Boy Plunger, the biography of twenties share trader Jesse Livermore, is fast

becoming the how-to handbook of the hedge fund industry in America. There was no one like Livermore who single headedly caused the 1929 stock market crash with his short selling which made him, for a brief period, the richest man in the world.

## A new musical called White Music is based on the book:

A new musical about the life of Barry White, also called White Music, and featuring his music, is in the works. It is under development by a team of script writers based on the White Music biography. The new musical will provisionally star Darryl White, his son, in the title role. Mica Paris is slated to play Glodean White, Barry's wife and Michael Barrymore will possibly play his long-time manager and orchestra conductor Sid Garris. The musical is planned to



debut in the West End in 2019 and Broadway in 2021. The musical follows the story

line in the book and will feature 29 songs from Barry White's playbook and his 35

albums from 1972 to 1999. It will begin during his time in prison, when his life is changed as Elvis Presley's It's Now Or Never is played on the radio. A light goes on in his head and he realises he must make something of himself. A Judge takes pity on him and spares him further jail time when he comes up for sentencing. He sets him free into the arms of his mother and Barry White never looks back from that moment on and becomes a global superstar.

# About Barry White

Barry White was born in Galveston during a family visit to Texas in the fall of 1944. His mother Sadie had gone to stay with her Texan relatives. It was not altogether smooth as Melvin White, Barry's father, was already married with two children of his own, something of which Sadie had no knowledge. Sadie and baby Barry soon returned to Los Angeles where a brother Darryl joined the family 16 months later.

Sadie eventually got wise to Melvin and he disappeared out of her life when she discovered his other family and realised he was a no-good. She and her two sons made the best of their lives and lived happily in the Watts area of Los Angeles. As soon as he could walk and talk Barry displayed a musical bent, while Darryl became a young thug, terrorising the neighbourhood.

Sadie bought a piano, then a gramophone to help her son develop his talents. as Barry remembered: "I'd sit there and listen and knew I wanted to know that lady called music." He dazzled the church choir with his musical talents and was running it by the age of 12.

But at the age of 14, Barry's life changed forever when his voice broke. Up to then he had sounded just like any other black teenager, but overnight he became unique, as



The earliest known photograph of Barry White aged one and a half taken by his father, Melvin White in Watts, Los Angeles in 1946.

he said himself: "When adolescence hit me, my sound didn't go down a tenor the way most boys do and stay there. Mine went down twice, first to a tenor and then to a bass singer – the second one was like a drop off the Empire State Building."

And from that moment, armed with a voice like no one else on the planet, he began a 15-year struggle to make it as a professional musician. In between he went to prison, got married, fathered five children and got divorced. Then he met his second wife Glodean and suddenly the path forward became clear. His first hit record was not for himself but the girl band, led by his wife, called Love Unlimited. On an otherwise mediocre first album, one track stood out like a beacon. It was called *Walking In The Rain With The One I Love*.

Those 4 minutes and 47 seconds of music became the song that defined Barry White. He described the song as being "romance inspired as two people meet, go together, and break up and then move on to new loves." The song became a hit around the world and made him and saved him.

His overriding ambition was to write and produce – he never wanted to be a performer himself. But as fate dictated he was unable to find a male act to record his music, so reluctantly he sang the songs himself. It was a

revelation and, together with his arranger and musical guru Gene Page, he recorded an album called *I've Got So Much To Give*. It took off and was followed by *Stone Gon'* and the magical *Can't Get Enough*. The albums made Barry White an international star and gave him the hit single that defined his life – *You're The First, The Last, My Everything*.

For the next five years Barry White produced hit album after hit album for himself, Love Unlimited and the Love Unlimited Orchestra. There were 15 albums in all, producing multiple hit singles and establishing him as one of the greats of music. But that was the peak, and despite recording 20 more albums he never again scaled the heights of that early success. But he continued to perform around the world playing to huge audiences until



The eight children of Barry White were born between 1960 and 1974. He had four with his first wife, Mary called Barry jnr, Darryl, Nina and Lanese. Two stepchildren with his second wife, Glodean called Kevin and Bridget, one daughter with Glodean called Shاهرah and one daughter out of marriage called Denice born in 1962 to a lady called Gurtha Allen.

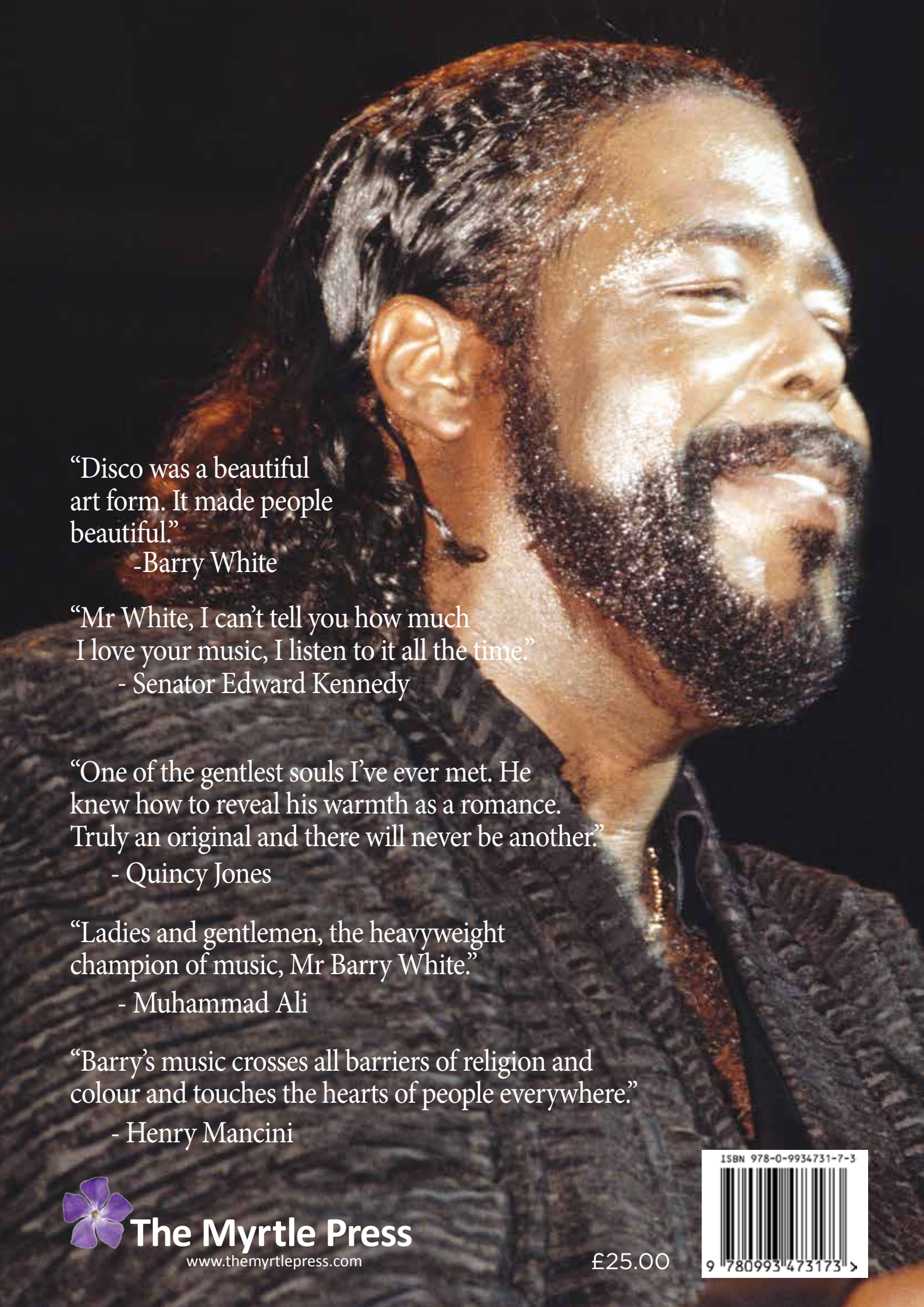
his death in 2003 at the age of 58.

Barry White's music was unique, and today his 20 solo albums sell millions of copies every year and his the songs are played by radio stations everywhere.

White Music is the first full biography of Barry White's life.



Sadie Marie Carter, Barry White's mother photographed in 1988. She was the guiding light of his life and gave him his grounding in music at a very young age.



“Disco was a beautiful art form. It made people beautiful.”

- Barry White

“Mr White, I can't tell you how much I love your music, I listen to it all the time.”

- Senator Edward Kennedy

“One of the gentlest souls I've ever met. He knew how to reveal his warmth as a romance. Truly an original and there will never be another.”

- Quincy Jones

“Ladies and gentlemen, the heavyweight champion of music, Mr Barry White.”

- Muhammad Ali

“Barry's music crosses all barriers of religion and colour and touches the hearts of people everywhere.”

- Henry Mancini



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