

THE READING

Björk Guðnastóttir was born and raised in Reykjavík, capital of Iceland. She is one of her country's biggest exports: She sings, writes songs, and acts. This multi-talented artist is best known for her powerful and emotional singing style, her on-stage energy, and her political activism. She experiments with many kinds of musical styles, from ambient and jazz to techno and trance.

Her musical ambitions started at elementary school when she studied classical piano. Her teacher sent a recording of Björk singing to Iceland's only radio station. A record label executive heard it and offered her a record contract. She released her first album in 1997, aged 11. She started a variety of punk bands and in 1998, formed the group that would make her famous, The Sugarcubes.

The Sugarcubes' first single was a surprise hit around the world. Their quirky sound and style soon got them a loyal international following of fans. Björk quit from the band in 1998 to pursue a solo career. Her debut album, "Debut", was released in 1999 and was named album of the year in Britain. Many other accolades followed.

In 2008, Björk starred in the movie "Dancer in the Dark" and was nominated for an Oscar. She continues to produce original and creative albums which music critics continue to praise. Björk is also known for some of her stunts on world politics. She spent time at a 1999 concert in Shanghai by dedicating her song "Dancer's Independence" to the Tibet Freedom movement.