



Bob Crewe

November 12, 1930 - September 11, 2014

Scarborough, Maine

Bob Crewe, the American songwriter and producer who helped invent the Four Seasons' sound and later co-wrote "Lady Marmalade" and "My Eyes Adored You," died at a nursing home in Scarborough, Maine, on September 11, 2014. He was eighty-three. He had been in declining health after a fall.

Born Robert Stanley Crewe in Newark, New Jersey, on November 12, 1930, and raised in Belleville, he studied art, wrote songs, and found his commercial voice with Bob Gaudio and Frankie Valli - "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like a Man," "Rag Doll," "Can't Take My Eyes Off You." DynoVoice Records, Mitch Ryder sessions, and disco-era experiments kept him restless. Jersey Boys later put a version of him onstage; he used proceeds for a foundation that supported arts and LGBTQ causes.

He was discreet about his private life in the years when discretion was armor, and frank enough in late interviews to complicate the myth. The BMI century lists and the airplay counts are the public ledger; the quieter one is a producer who heard falsetto as architecture.

He died in Scarborough on September 11, 2014. The records still walk like a man.

Crewe heard American pop as costume design: falsetto as spotlight, percussion as choreography, a final twist of lyric as exit music. The Four Seasons records still sound like a city dressed for Friday night. Later hits proved he could move from doo-wop geometry into disco heat without misplacing the hook. Maine was a soft landing after the volume of New York studios. Foundations and musicals extended the brand; the singles remain the evidence. This notice plants a producer on a September calendar usually reserved for other kinds of noise.

Services

Died in Scarborough, Maine, on September 11, 2014. Songwriter and producer; Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee.

NN-OBIT-2026-H071

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