

Biography



Supertramp

Once upon a time in 1969, a young Dutch millionaire by the name of Stanley August Miesegaes gave his acquaintance, vocalist and keyboardist Rick Davies from England a "genuine opportunity" to form his own band; he could form the band of his dreams and Miesegaes would pay for it.

After placing an ad in Melody Maker, Davies assembled some musicians and started Supertramp. Supertramp released two long-winded progressive rock albums before Miesegaes withdrew his support. With no money or fan base to speak of, the band was forced to redesign their sound.

Coming up with a more pop-oriented form of progressive rock, the band had a hit with their third album, *Crime of the Century*, one of the top selling albums of 1974.

Throughout the decade, Supertramp had a number of best-selling albums, culminating in 1979 with their masterpiece, "Breakfast in America" where they reached the rock's first division.

Breakfast in America marked their first album that tipped the scale completely in the favor of pop songs; Four of the tracks from the album became hits, "Goodbye Stranger," "Logical Song," and "Take the Long Way Home" and of course the title number – "Breakfast in America". The album sold over 18 million copies worldwide.

After that album, Supertramp continued to develop a more R&B-flavored style; the change in direction was successful on 1982's *Famous Last Words*, but they soon ran out of hits. The band continued to sporadically record and tour into the '90s.

Written by Stephen Thomas Erlenwine

Read quickly, skim for information, and find the answers to following questions:

- Who was the founder of Supertramp?
- Where did he come from?
- He met a millionaire who offered to finance a new band. What was his name and where did this rich man come from?
- What was the name of the LP where they reached the rock's "first division"?
- Write down the name of three songs from that album?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.