# John Cooper Clarke credits Arctic Monkeys collaboration with revitalising his career and finances



John Cooper Clarke has articulated the profound impact that his collaboration with Arctic Monkeys has had on his career, declaring it transformative “to an incalculable degree.” In a recent discussion at the Hay Festival of Literature and Arts, the 76-year-old poet, affectionately known as “the Bard of Salford,” reflected on how his work, particularly the poem “I Wanna Be Yours,” has found new resonance in modern culture, primarily through the band’s musical adaptation.

Clarke first emerged as a literary figure during the punk movement of the 1970s, gaining recognition alongside iconic bands like the Sex Pistols and Joy Division. However, it wasn’t until his poem “Evidently Chickentown” featured in a pivotal episode of HBO’s acclaimed series *The Sopranos* that he experienced a notable resurgence in popularity. This resurgence led to themes of his work being further elevated when Arctic Monkeys covered “I Wanna Be Yours” on their 2013 album *AM*. Clarke noted that this coverage has introduced him to a new generation of fans and has transformed his creative landscape.

The poet expressed surprise at the poem's newfound popularity, especially as it has since become a staple at weddings. He shared with journalist Miranda Sawyer that the song's success enabled him to finally earn financial rewards for his writing, stating that prior to these developments, his poetry did not yield a substantial financial outcome. “I can’t thank those guys enough, really, to have regular payouts from a song,” he said, reflecting on the unexpected fiscal benefits that have come from this artistic collaboration.

Clarke's sentiments were echoed in a 2023 interview where he remarked on the song reaching a staggering one billion streams. This monumental success emphasises the romantic appeal of his work, which is frequently cited in nuptial ceremonies, further cementing its place in contemporary culture. Clarke’s collaboration with Arctic Monkeys has revitalised his profile, allowing him to engage in more prominent performances and creating a sustainable financial model for his craft.

The relationship between Clarke and Arctic Monkeys extends beyond mere admiration; it has blossomed into a reciprocal appreciation of art that bridges generations. Recently, Clarke joined the band on stage in New York to commemorate the tenth anniversary of *AM*, performing his original poem live, a poignant reminder of the intertwined paths of poetry and music.

Amidst this mutual admiration, Clarke emphasized the importance of collaboration in creative pursuits, asserting that no successful pop song has thrived solely because of its lyrics. The blending of lyrical poetry with musical accompaniment has showcased Clarke’s work to an entirely new audience, fundamentally altering the landscape of his artistic expression. This dynamic partnership is not only honouring the essence of Clarke’s original text but also reinforcing the idea that poetry can transcend its traditional confines.

In a world where artistic endeavors often struggle for recognition, the success of “I Wanna Be Yours” serves as a testament to the power of collaboration. The partnership between Clarke and Arctic Monkeys stands as an inviting reminder of how modern interpretations can breathe new life into classic works, simultaneously benefiting artists from diverse backgrounds.

As his career continues to flourish with the help of new artistic collaborations, Clarke's journey embodies the steadfast belief that art can evolve and resonate in unexpected ways.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/music/news/john-cooper-clarke-arctic-monkeys-i-wanna-be-yours-b2759907.html), [[4]](https://www.nme.com/news/music/watch-john-cooper-clarke-perform-i-wanna-be-yours-at-arctic-monkeys-nyc-gig-to-mark-am-10th-anniversary-3495745)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/music/news/john-cooper-clarke-arctic-monkeys-i-wanna-be-yours-b2759907.html), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/music/2023/mar/20/john-cooper-clarke-arctic-monkeys-worlds-favourite-poem-i-wanna-be-yours-ford-cortina), [[5]](https://faroutmagazine.co.uk/john-cooper-clarke-i-love-the-arctic-monkeys-i-cant-thank-them-enough/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.nme.com/news/music/john-cooper-clarke-on-the-arctic-monkeys-inspiring-i-wanna-be-yours-being-streamed-a-billion-times-3416756), [[6]](https://www.radiox.co.uk/artists/arctic-monkeys/john-cooper-clarke-joins-wanna-be-yours-new-york/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/music/news/john-cooper-clarke-arctic-monkeys-i-wanna-be-yours-b2759907.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/music/2023/mar/20/john-cooper-clarke-arctic-monkeys-worlds-favourite-poem-i-wanna-be-yours-ford-cortina> - In a 2023 interview, John Cooper Clarke discussed the widespread popularity of his poem 'I Wanna Be Yours' after Arctic Monkeys' adaptation. He expressed surprise at its success, noting that it had become a wedding favourite and had significantly boosted his profile, leading to more substantial performances and royalties.
3. <https://www.nme.com/news/music/john-cooper-clarke-on-the-arctic-monkeys-inspiring-i-wanna-be-yours-being-streamed-a-billion-times-3416756> - John Cooper Clarke reflected on his poem 'I Wanna Be Yours' reaching a billion streams, attributing its success to Arctic Monkeys' cover. He highlighted the poem's romantic appeal and its unexpected popularity, noting its frequent use in weddings and its impact on his career.
4. <https://www.nme.com/news/music/watch-john-cooper-clarke-perform-i-wanna-be-yours-at-arctic-monkeys-nyc-gig-to-mark-am-10th-anniversary-3495745> - In September 2023, John Cooper Clarke joined Arctic Monkeys in New York to celebrate the 10th anniversary of their album 'AM'. He performed his original poem 'I Wanna Be Yours' before the band played their rendition, marking a significant collaboration between the poet and the band.
5. <https://faroutmagazine.co.uk/john-cooper-clarke-i-love-the-arctic-monkeys-i-cant-thank-them-enough/> - John Cooper Clarke expressed his admiration for Arctic Monkeys, praising their cover of his poem 'I Wanna Be Yours'. He credited the band with reintroducing the poem to the British public and noted its popularity at weddings, highlighting the band's influence on his renewed success.
6. <https://www.radiox.co.uk/artists/arctic-monkeys/john-cooper-clarke-joins-wanna-be-yours-new-york/> - In September 2023, John Cooper Clarke performed his poem 'I Wanna Be Yours' at Arctic Monkeys' concert in New York, marking the 10th anniversary of their album 'AM'. The performance was a tribute to the band's adaptation of his work, which had significantly boosted his career.
7. <https://www.nme.com/news/music/john-cooper-clarke-hails-arctic-monkeys-2356185> - John Cooper Clarke praised Arctic Monkeys for covering his poem 'I Wanna Be Yours', which became a fan favourite on their 2013 album 'AM'. He expressed gratitude for the band's rendition, noting its popularity at weddings and its impact on his renewed success.