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A List

# Country group Lady Antebellum changes band name to Lady A because of slavery connotations

'We are regretful and embarrassed to say that we did not take into account the associations that weigh down this word'

by Sara Feigin • New York • 11 June 2020



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Country-pop band **Lady Antebellum** released a statement that they will be changing their name to Lady A, a fan-made moniker for the trio, as the word Antebellum has slavery connotations.

The Grammy-winning country act is based in Nashville and they're known for hits including 'Need You Now' and 'What If I Never Get Over You.' They have seven albums to their name, three of which were number one Country albums in America.

The group released the statement on all of their **social media** platforms announcing the change, made after fourteen years together, and after “personal reflection, band discussion, prayer and many honest conversations with some of our closest black friends and colleagues.”



The name change coincides with the Black Lives Matter **protests** that have taken place in the wake of the death of **George Floyd** on May 25th.

Antebellum was originally chosen to be part of their band name because their first ever band photos were taken in front of an antebellum-style home, which reminded them of all the music born in the South that inspired them.

At the time, the group didn't realize the negative connotations of the word. They wrote, "We are regretful and embarrassed to say that we did not take into account the associations that weigh down this word referring to the period of history before the Civil War, which includes slavery."



(Getty Images)

The group went on to write, "We are deeply sorry for the hurt this has caused and for anyone who has felt unsafe, unseen or unvalued. Causing pain was never our hearts' intention, but it doesn't change the fact that indeed, it did just that."

They also acknowledged that they were aware it had taken them quite some time and multiple Black Lives Matter protest to make this decision, sharing that “We can make no excuse for our lateness to this realization. What we can do is acknowledge it, turn from it and take action.”



Lady Antebellum

Black Lives Matter

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