



**GROWN-UP TEST**  
**Dionne Warwick**

US singer Dionne Warwick has sold more than 100 million albums worldwide; she was cousin to the late Whitney Houston and has two sons, David and Damon. She's 74, but how old is she in her head?

Words **Paula Kerr**

**What makes your heart sing...?** Music, of course! I've spent much of my life in Brazil and Brazilian beats truly stir my soul.

**...and sink?** I'm always saddened when long-held trust is broken.

**What did turning 70 mean for you?** It was a milestone worth celebrating for sure and made me realise I have truly survived. And I was reminded about the amount of work I would yet like to accomplish.

**Last good deed for the planet?** To bring the awareness of AIDS to the forefront. I orchestrated *That's What Friends are For* to raise funds for The American Foundation

for AIDS Research. I champion The Hunger Project in the UK, which works tirelessly to eradicate hunger worldwide.

**Decade you're most nostalgic for?** I've always tried to stay with the times. But I miss the days when communicating was much simpler. You could reach someone by phone and actually speak to a person.

**What music gets you on a dance floor?** Oh, that's easy. It's the incredible salsa stylings of Miss Celia Cruz.

**Your favourite contemporary song?** My granddaughter Cheyenne Elliott's single, *With You*, but I guess I'm partial.

**What do you collect?** I'm not really a collector of material objects, but I've collected many wonderful friends.

**Your longest friendship?** That would be with myself.

**What would make getting older easier?** Having the strength to be able to do the things I did in my twenties.

**If your 16-year-old self could see you now, what would she say?** You did it!

**Name two people from the past you'd like to sit next to at dinner.** I would love to have the chance to sit with Nelson Mandela again, whom I had the privilege of knowing. And also my mentor, Marlene Dietrich.

**What makes you grumpy?** Situations that are more complicated than they should be due to lack of communication.

**Your childhood nickname?** Dionne, funnily enough. I was actually named Marie, after my aunt. Dionne was my middle name, which everyone started to call me.

**What did your parents teach you?** Remove 'can't' from your vocabulary. If you can think it, you can do it!

**Last time you broke the law?** Not for quite some time, I'm pleased to report.

**Your greatest regret?** I really have no regrets, only lessons learnt.

**Who would you like to say sorry to?** I can't think of anyone. I try to say sorry at the time.

**Your best beauty tip?** I tell everyone to just be themselves and keep it real. Then you will glow.

**Exercise, good diet or both?** I've walked miles through airports and generally eat what I like.

**Your hope for the future?** It would be wonderful to see people of all nations, races and beliefs working together to get along, and stop the madness of senseless killing and terrorist attacks.

**Glass half-full or half-empty?** Half-full - it's the only way to see things and realise the blessings life's provided.

**VERDICT**  
 For keeping up with the times, staying positive and still not knowing the meaning of can't, **we make you 54.**

*Dionne Warwick appears in Legends Live, across the UK, October 3, 4, 6 (legendslive.org)*



For a longer version of this article, go to [saga.co.uk/dionne](http://saga.co.uk/dionne)



**SHE DID IT!** Dionne in the Seventies (right) and performing in New York this summer (top)

MICHAEL ODORE/GETTY

**Remove 'can't' from your vocabulary. If you can think it, you can do it!** A lesson my parents taught me