SERGEI PROKOFIEV

Composer



BORN
APR 23, 1891
Sontsovka, Russia

DIED
MAR 5, 1953
Moscow, Russia



Sergei Prokofiev was a Russian musician who lived from 1891-1953. He played the violin, he wrote songs, and he would conduct and lead large orchestras. Prokofiev was around music as a child as his mother also played the violin. His family was quick to notice his talent at music, especially when he wrote his first piece for the violin at age 5! He attended a special music school where he studied to be a musician under well known composers. He wrote music for people of all ages! His most famous piece for children is called "Peter and the Wolf." Each instrument is assigned to an animal. It is a great song when learning how to hear the different sounds of each instrument as well as understanding how music can tell stories.
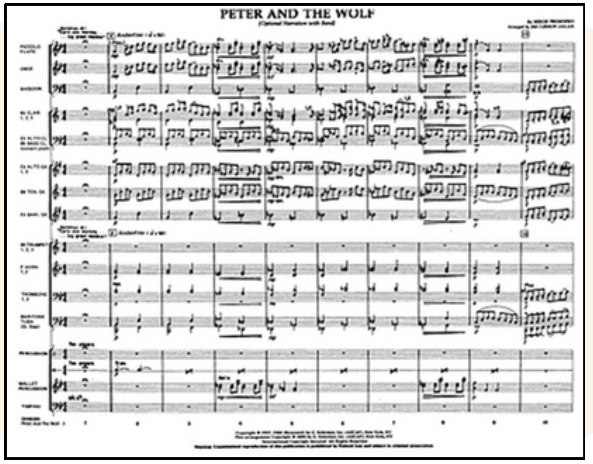
Education

St. Petersburg Conservatory
(1904 - 1909)

Famous Works

Peter & the Wolf

Romeo & Juliet,Op. 64 (1935, rev. 1940)



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SERGEI PROKOFIEV

Composer

Sergei Prokofiev was a renowned Russian composer born on April 23, 1891, in Sontsivka, Ukraine. Known for his innovative and diverse musical style, Prokofiev made significant contributions to 20th-century classical music with his compositions that range from symphonies, operas, and ballets to chamber music and piano works. His work often combined traditional classical structures with modern elements, characterized by bold harmonies, rhythmic complexity, and lyrical melodies. Among his most famous works are the ballet "Romeo and Juliet," the opera "The Love for Three Oranges," and the orchestral suite "Peter and the Wolf," which has introduced generations of children to the instruments of the orchestra.

BORN
APR 23, 1891
Sontsovka, Russia

DIED
MAR 5, 1953
Moscow, Russia
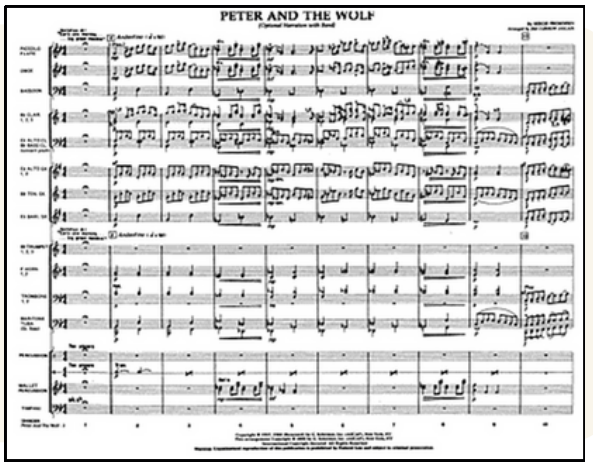


Education

St. Petersburg Conservatory
(1904 - 1909)

Famous Works

Peter & the Wolf

Romeo & Juliet,Op. 64 (1935, rev. 1940)



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LOUIS ARMSTRONG

Musician & Singer

Louis Armstrong was an important American jazz musician who lived from 1901-1971. Jazz music began in New Orleans, where Armstrong grew up, which allowed different people to make up music with their instruments. This is called improvisation. Jazz music uses instruments like pianos, saxophones, drums, and trumpets, which was what Armstrong played. Armstrong helped Jazz also work for those who performed alone. Playing the trumpet as well as singing, Armstrong wrote many famous songs like "What a Wonderful World" and "Dream a Little Dream." He created music for over 5 decades inspiring writers, musicians, and movie stars.

BORN
AUG 4, 1901
New Orleans, LA

—

DIED
JUL 6, 1971
New York, NY

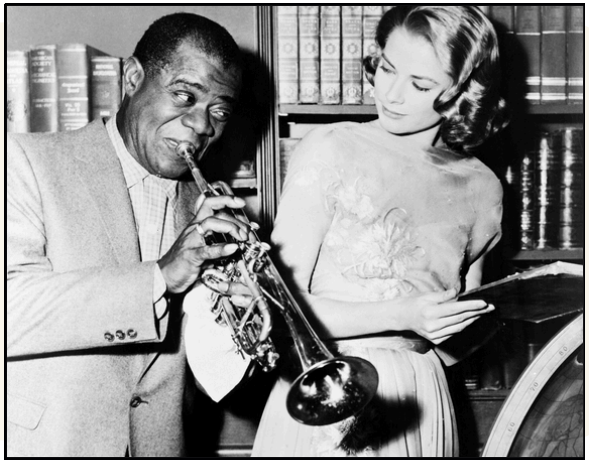


Famous Works

What a Wonderful World

La Vie En Rose

Blueberry Hill



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BOB MARLEY

Singer & Songwriter

Bob Marley was a Jamaican singer, guitarist, and song writer who lived from 1945-1981. He played reggae music which sounded cool, has a laid back beat and often talks about love, peace, and freedom. He eventually moved to London and even lived in the United States for a little bit. He played in a band called The Wailers and also sang by himself. Some of his famous songs include "One Love" and "Get Up, Stand Up." He passed away at 36 to cancer but his music lives on. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame due to his influence and creativity into the music world.

BORN
FEB 6, 1945
Nine Mile, Jamaica

DIED
MAY 11, 1981
Miami, FL



Famous Works

Three Little Birds

Jammin'

Sun is Shining



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BOB MARLEY

Singer & Songwriter

Bob Marley was a legendary Jamaican musician known for popularizing reggae music around the world. Born in 1945, Marley's music blends catchy rhythms with powerful messages about peace, love, and social justice. His famous songs, like "No Woman, No Cry" and "Redemption Song," resonate with listeners for their positive messages and unique sound. Marley's influence extends beyond music; he became a global symbol of unity and resistance against oppression. Though cancer cut his life short at 36, his legacy continues to inspire people everywhere, making him one of the most iconic figures in music history.

BORN
FEB 6, 1945
Nine Mile, Jamaica

DIED
MAY 11, 1981
Miami, FL



Famous Works

Three Little Birds

Jammin'

Sun is Shining



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CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS

Composer & Conductor



BORN
OCT 9 1835
Paris, France

DIED
DEC 16, 1921
Algiers, Algeria



Camille Saint-Saëns is a French composer and conductor who lived from 1835-1921. He played the organ and piano. It was clear even at the small age of 3 that he was meant to perform and write music. He had perfect pitch meaning that he could sing or play an "A" note without ever hearing it or knowing that the sound of the bell was a "c" note. He studied to become a composer and conductor. One of his most famous music ideas was meant to be funny. "Carnival of the Animals" uses 11 different instruments. Saint-Saëns requested that this work not be published and performed until after he died because he was afraid other people would think differently of his other more serious works. Everyone was excited about "Carnival of the Animals" that it has become one of his most played pieces of music played and recorded all over the world.
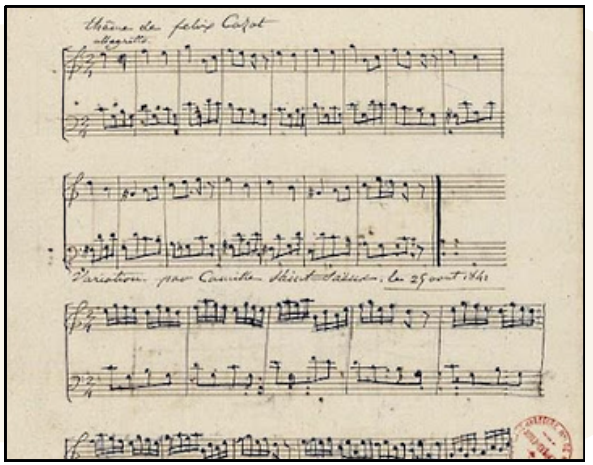
Education

Paris Conservatoire
(1848 - 1853)

Famous Works

Carnival of the Animals

Occident et Orient, Op. 25



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PYOTR TCHAIKOVSKY

Composer



BORN
MAY 7, 1840
Votkinsk,
Russian Empire

DIED
NOV 6, 1893
St. Petersburg,
Russia



Pyotr Ilyick Tchaikovsky was a famous composer from Russia who lived from 1840-1893. He wrote beautiful music for ballets like Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, and The Sleeping Beauty, which people love to listen to and watch today. Tchaikovsky also created symphonies, which are big pieces of music played by many instruments. His music is known for its strong emotions making people feel happy, sad, excited, or peaceful. He was inspired by a composer named Mozart and used his love for the playwright, Shakespeare, to inspire some of his work. Sometimes composers will also conduct, or lead, their symphonies. It wasn't until later in his life that Tchaikovsky overcame his fear of conducting in front of others. Once he did, he was able to go on tour throughout Europe and to the United States showcasing his work.

Education
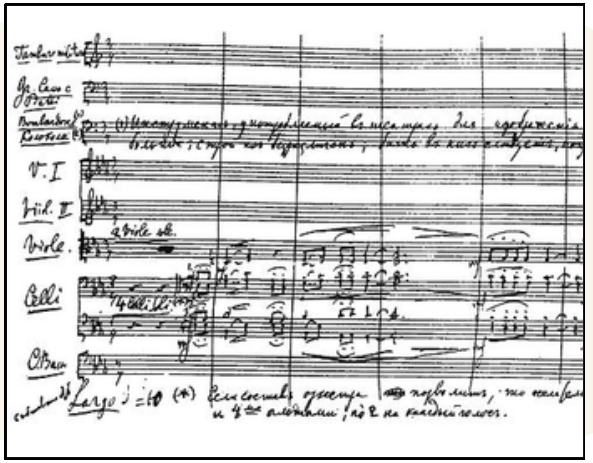
Imperial School of Jurisprudence
(1852 - 1859)

Famous Works

1812 Overture

Swan Lake

The Nutcracker Overture



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PHARRELL WILLIAMS

Singer-Songwriter & Producer

Pharrell Williams is an American singer-songwriter, rapper, record producer, and fashion designer born in 1977. One of his most popular songs is "Happy," which was written for the Despicable Me 2 movie. His music fits mostly into the rap and rock genre, with both solo albums where he performs himself or as a feature in other people's songs. As a record producer, he helps other musicians create and develop their songs. He has worked with artists like Jay Z, Gwen Stefani, and Justin Timberlake. Williams is creative not only in the music world but also in the fashion industry. He has designed shoes, skincare, jewelry, and a line of men's clothing. Williams has been successful in many different art fields

BORN

APR 5, 1973

Virginia Beach, VA



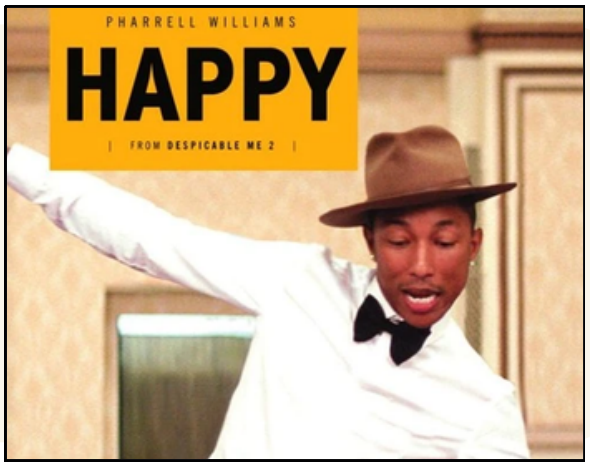
Education

Northwestern University,
Evanston, IL

Famous Works

Happy

Double Life



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JASON MRAZ

Singer-Songwriter

Jason Mraz is an American singer and song-writer that was born in 1977. His instrument of choice is the guitar. His is known for his cheerful and catchy songs that often have positive messages. Some of his most popular songs include "Lucky" and "I'm Yours." His love for performing began in high school where he not only participated in school chorus but also a member of the cheerleading squad and part of the theatre department. His music blends different styles like pop, hip hop, and jazz. He has written 8 studio records and have received many nominations and awards for his music.

BORN

JUN 23, 1977

Mechanicsville, VA



Education

American Musical & Dramatic Academy, New York City

Famous Works

I'm Yours

Have It All



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RICHARD STRAUSS

Singer-Songwriter

Richard Strauss, born on June 11, 1864, in Munich, Germany, was a famous composer and conductor known for his powerful and imaginative music. He wrote many different kinds of music, including operas, symphonies, and songs. Some of his most famous works are the opera "Der Rosenkavalier" and the tone poem "Also sprach Zarathustra," which became well-known after being used in the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey." Strauss's music is known for its rich sounds and dramatic style, often telling stories or painting pictures with melodies. He was a leading figure in the world of music for many years, influencing many other composers. Strauss continued to compose and conduct until his death on September 8, 1949, leaving behind a legacy of beautiful and influential music.

BORN
JUN 11, 1864
Munich, Germany

—

DIED
SEP 8, 1949
Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Bavaria
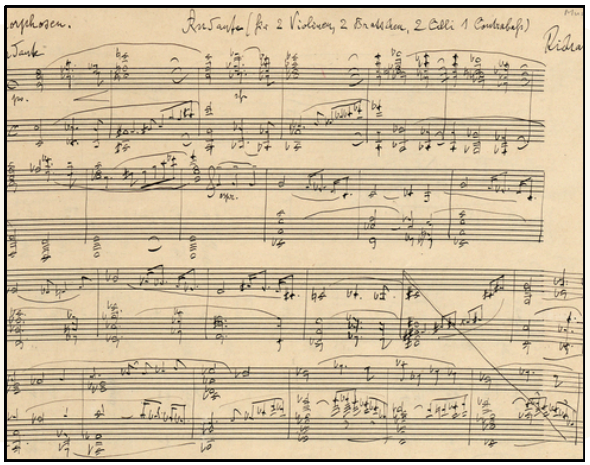


Education

Ludwigsgymnasium &
University of Munich

Famous Works

Also Sprach Zarathustra

4 Letzte Lieder



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BENJAMIN BRITTEN

Composer, Conductor, & Pianist

Benjamin Britten, born on November 22, 1913, in Lowestoft, England, was a renowned British composer, conductor, and pianist. He is best known for his operas, including "Peter Grimes," which premiered in 1945 and brought him international fame. "Peter Grimes" tells the story of a troubled fisherman in a small English village and is celebrated for its powerful music and dramatic intensity. Britten's other famous works include the "War Requiem," "The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra," and "Billy Budd." Britten's music is known for its clarity, innovation, and emotional depth. He played a significant role in 20th-century classical music and co-founded the Aldeburgh Festival, which continues to be a major cultural event. Britten's contributions to music were immense, and he continued to compose and perform until his death on December 4, 1976. His legacy lives on through his beautiful and influential compositions.

BORN
NOV 22, 1913
Lowestoft, England

DIED
DEC 4, 1976
Aldeburgh, England



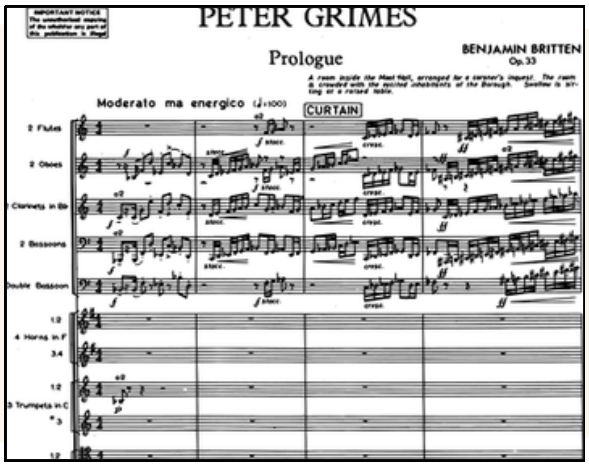
Education

Royal College of Music,
London, England

Famous Works

Peter Grimes

Simple Symphony



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FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN

Composer

Franz Joseph Haydn, born on March 31, 1732, in Rohrau, Austria, was a prolific composer known as the "Father of the Symphony" and the "Father of the String Quartet." He created over 100 symphonies and 68 string quartets, shaping the classical music style of his time. Haydn was a key figure in developing the form and structure of classical music, and his work greatly influenced other famous composers like Mozart and Beethoven. His music is celebrated for its originality, lively rhythms, and inventive use of musical themes, making him a central figure in the history of classical music.

BORN
MAR 31, 1732
Rohrau, Austria

DIED
MAY 31, 1809
Vienna, Austria



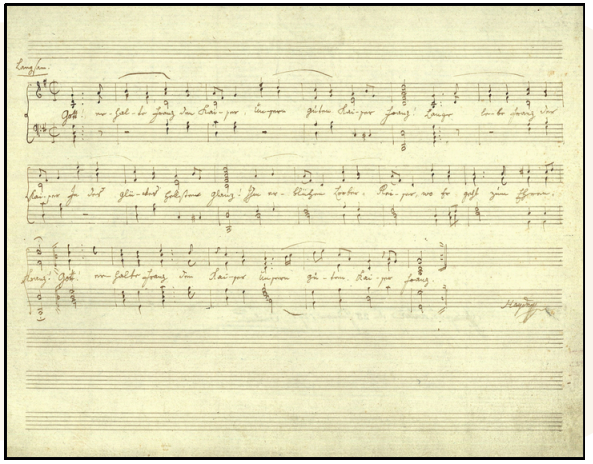
Education

Private tutelage; self-taught

Famous Works

Trumpet Concerto

Cello Concerto No. 2 in D Major



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EDVARD GRIEG

Composer & Pianist

Edvard Grieg, born on June 15, 1843, in Bergen, Norway, was a renowned composer and pianist known for his evocative and melodic music. He is best known for his orchestral suite Peer Gynt, which includes popular pieces like "In the Hall of the Mountain King" and "Morning Mood." Grieg's music often drew inspiration from Norwegian folk tunes and landscapes, creating a unique and expressive sound that captured the spirit of his homeland. His contributions to Romantic music made him one of Norway's most celebrated composers. Grieg passed away on September 4, 1907, at age 64 from heart failure. His last words were “Well, if it must be so.”

BORN
JUN 15, 1843
Bergen, Norway

DIED
SEP 4, 1907
Bergen, Norway
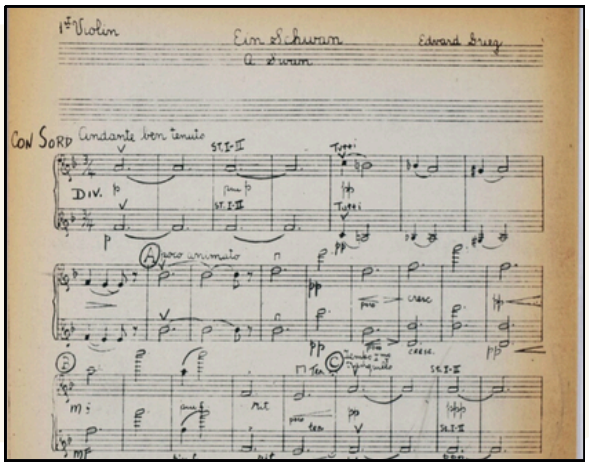


Education

University of Music & Theatre Leipzig
Leipzig, Germany

Famous Works

In the Hall of the Mountain King

Morning Mood



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GIACOMO PUCCINI

Composer

Giacomo Antonio Domenico Michele Secondo Maria Puccini, born on December 22, 1858, in Lucca, Italy, was a celebrated composer known for his operas, which are beloved for their emotional intensity and melodic richness. Some of his most famous works include La Bohème, Tosca, and Madama Butterfly. Puccini's operas often explore themes of love and tragedy, and his skillful use of orchestration and memorable arias has made him a key figure in the operatic world. His music continues to resonate with audiences around the globe, and he remains one of the most performed opera composers of all time. Tragically, his life was cut short by throat cancer. Despite aggressive, experimental treatments, including radium therapy, Puccini succumbed to a heart attack on November 29, 1924, following a failed surgical attempt to remove the tumor.

BORN
DEC 22, 1858
Lucca, Italy

DIED
NOV 29, 1924
Brussels, Belgium
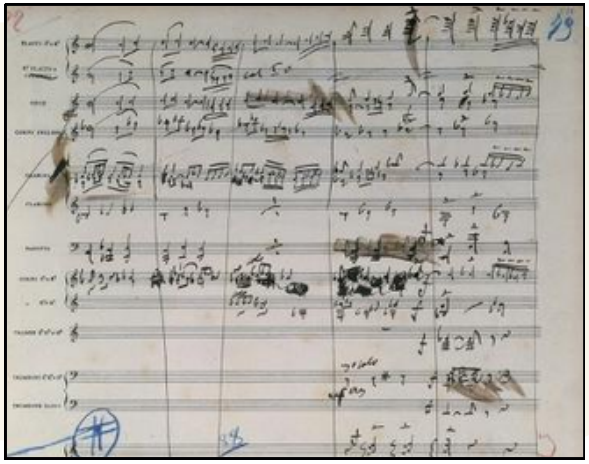


Education

Pacini School of Music,
Milan Conservatory

Famous Works

Nessun Dorma

O Mio Babbino Caro



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ALAIN BOUBLIL & CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHÖNBERG



Songwriters

Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg are a dynamic songwriting duo known for their influential work in musical theater. Alain Boublil, born on March 5, 1941, in Tunisia, and Claude-Michel Schönberg, born on July 6, 1944, in France, first collaborated on the groundbreaking musical Les Misérables, which premiered in Paris in 1980. They followed up with other successful musicals like Miss Saigon and Martin Guerre. Boublil's and Schönberg's musicals are celebrated for their powerful storytelling and memorable scores, earning them international acclaim and a lasting impact on the genre. Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg's musical Miss Saigon, which premiered in London in 1989, tells a poignant and dramatic story of love and loss during the Vietnam War, featuring memorable songs like "The Last Night of the World" and "I Still Believe."

BOUBLIL BORN
MAR 5, 1941
Tunis, Tunisia

SCHÖNBERG BORN
JUL 6, 1944
Vannes, France



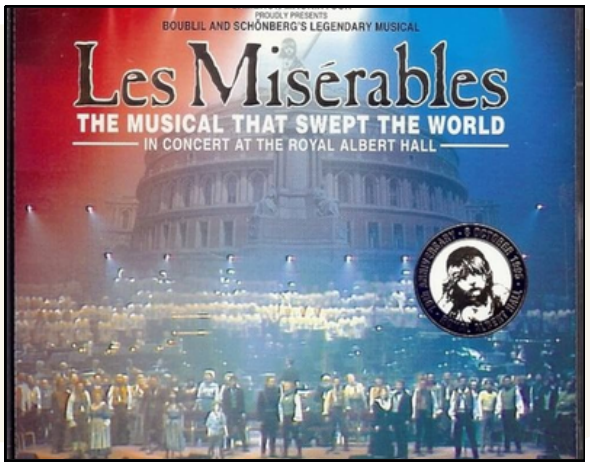
Famous Works

Les Miserables

Miss Saigon

Martin Guerre

The Pirate Queen



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PAUL DAVID HEWSON (BONO)

Singer

U2 is an iconic Irish rock band formed in Dublin in 1976, consisting of Bono (lead vocals and rhythm guitar), The Edge (lead guitar, keyboards), Adam Clayton (bass guitar), and Larry Mullen Jr. (drums). Bono, born Paul David Hewson on May 10, 1960, is the band's charismatic frontman, known for his powerful voice and passionate stage presence. Under his leadership, U2 has achieved global acclaim with influential albums like The Joshua Tree and Achtung Baby. Beyond his musical career, Bono is recognized for his activism, particularly in advocating for global humanitarian issues and social justice through his work with organizations like DATA and ONE. U2's innovative sound and Bono's activism have cemented their place as one of the most influential bands in rock history.

BORN

MAY 10, 1960

Dublin, Ireland



Famous Songs

U2 at Live Aid, 1985

Pride (In the Name of Love)

With or Without You



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TAYLOR SWIFT

Singer-songwriter

Taylor Swift is a highly influential American singer-songwriter known for her genre-spanning music and personal lyrics. Born on December 13, 1989, in West Reading, Pennsylvania, Swift began her career in country music before transitioning to pop, where she achieved massive success with albums like 1989 and Lover. Her songwriting prowess and ability to connect with audiences have garnered her numerous awards, including multiple Grammys. Swift is also known for her re-recording project, which aims to regain control of her early music catalog. Beyond her music, she is recognized for her advocacy on issues such as artists' rights and political engagement, making her a significant cultural and philanthropic figure.

BORN

DEC 13, 1989

West Reading, PA



Famous Songs

You Belong with Me

Anti-Hero

NYU 2022 Commencement Speech



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ANAÏS MITCHELL

Singer-songwriter

Anaïs Mitchell is an American singer-songwriter and folk musician known for her distinctive voice and evocative storytelling. Born on March 26, 1981, in Middlebury, Vermont, Mitchell gained recognition with her critically acclaimed albums such as Hades and Young Man in America. Her work blends elements of folk, indie, and Americana, often drawing on themes of mythology, politics, and personal reflection. Mitchell is also celebrated for her musical theater work, particularly Hadestown, a folk opera that reimagines the ancient Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice. Hadestown won the Tony Award for Best Musical in 2019, marking a significant achievement in her diverse and influential career.

BORN

MAR 26, 1981

Montpelier, VT



Famous Songs

Making the Music (interview)

The Unlikely Journey (interview)

Hadestown performs at the Tonys



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LINDSEY STIRLING

Violinist & Dancer

Lindsey Stirling is a dynamic violinist, dancer, and performer known for her unique blend of classical music and modern dance. Growing up in Arizona, Stirling started playing the violin at a young age and combined her love for the instrument with her passion for dancing. Her energetic performances, which often feature a mix of electronic music and intricate choreography, have earned her a huge following on social media and numerous awards. Stirling's creative videos and live shows showcase her talent and originality, making her a standout artist who brings a fresh and exciting twist to both classical and contemporary music.

BORN

SEP 21, 1986

Santa Ana, CA



Education

Brigham Young University

Famous Pieces

Greatest Showman Medley

Master of Tides



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BOB DYLAN

Singer-songwriter

Bob Dylan is a legendary American musician and songwriter known for his influential and poetic songs. Born Robert Zimmerman in Minnesota, Dylan began making music in the early 1960s and quickly became famous for his powerful lyrics and unique voice. His songs, like "Blowin' in the Wind" and "Like a Rolling Stone," often address social and political issues, making him a voice of change and reflection. Dylan's style blends folk, rock, and blues, and his work has won numerous awards, including the Nobel Prize in Literature. He continues to inspire and impact music and culture with his groundbreaking and thought-provoking artistry.

BORN

MAY 24, 1941

Duluth, MN



Education

University of Minnesota

Famous Works

Blowin' in the Wind

Mr. Tambourine Man



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JOAN BAEZ

Singer-songwriter

Joan Baez is a highly respected American singer and songwriter known for her powerful voice and commitment to social justice. Born in New York City, Baez began her music career in the 1960s and quickly became famous for her folk music and passionate performances. Her songs often focus on themes of peace, human rights, and activism, and she played a significant role in the civil rights movement. Baez's clear, emotive voice and dedication to important causes have made her a lasting influence in music and a beloved figure in both the folk and protest music genres.

BORN

JAN 9, 1941

New York, NY



Education

Boston University

Famous Works

Colours

We Shall Overcome



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TUPAC SHAKUR

Rapper & Actor

Tupac Shakur was a hugely influential American rapper and actor known for his powerful lyrics and unique voice. Born in New York City in 1971, Tupac became famous in the 1990s for his music that tackled important issues like social justice, poverty, and violence. His songs, such as "California Love" and "Changes," are remembered for their honest and thought-provoking messages. Tupac was also a talented actor, appearing in films like Juice and Poetic Justice. Despite his tragic and early death in 1996, Tupac's music and message continue to inspire and impact people around the world.

BORN
JUN 16, 1971
New York, NY

—

DIED
SEP 13, 1996
Las Vegas, NV



Education

Baltimore School for the Arts

Famous Works

So Many Tears (Clean)

Letter 2 My Unborn Child



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WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

Composer

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was a brilliant composer from Austria who lived during the 18th century and is considered one of the greatest musical geniuses of all time. Born in 1756, Mozart's father taught him everything he knew, and the boy started composing music as a child, creating an incredible amount of work throughout his life, including symphonies, operas, and piano concertos. His music is known for its beauty, complexity, and emotional depth. Some of his most famous pieces include The Magic Flute and Eine kleine Nachtmusik. Even though he died young at just 35, Mozart's compositions have had a lasting impact on classical music and continue to be celebrated and performed around the world.

BORN
JAN 27, 1756
Salzburg, Austria

—

DIED
DEC 5, 1791
Vienna, Austria

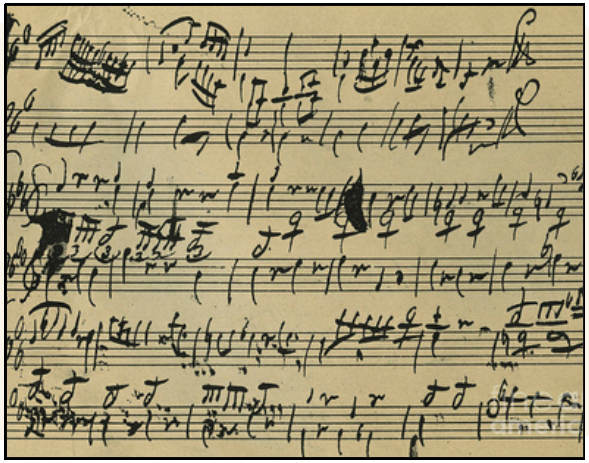


Famous Works

Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

Symphony No. 40

Mozart's Requiem



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KATY PERRY

Singer & Song-writer

Katy Perry is a popular American singer and songwriter known for her catchy pop songs and energetic performances. Born in 1984 in California, Perry first gained attention with her debut album, but she really shot to fame with hits like "Roar" and "Firework." Her music is known for its upbeat and fun style, often featuring powerful lyrics and memorable melodies. In addition to her successful music career, Perry has also been a judge on talent shows like American Idol and has used her platform to support various charitable causes. Her vibrant personality and chart-topping songs have made her a major figure in pop music.

BORN

OCT 25, 1984

Santa Barbara, CA



Education

Santa Barbara City College

Famous Works

Firework

Rise



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THE BYRDS

Rock Band



The Byrds were a famous American rock band from the 1960s, known for their unique sound that blended folk music with rock. Formed in Los Angeles, the band was led by Roger McGuinn and included members like David Crosby and Gene Clark. The Byrds gained popularity with hits like "Mr. Tambourine Man" and "Turn! Turn! Turn!" which featured catchy melodies and harmonies. They played a big role in shaping the folk-rock genre and influencing other musicians. Their innovative style and memorable songs helped them become one of the most influential bands of their time.

ESTABLISHED

1964

Los Angeles, CA



Famous Songs

Turn! Turn! Turn!

The Times They Are A-Changin'

Chimes of Freedom



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ROB GONSALVES

Painter & Illustrator

Rob Gonsalves was a Canadian painter and illustrator who lived from 1959-2017. His work can be described as "magic realism" because his work looks so real but yet part of it doesn't quite make sense. For example, he made a painting where a child was building a city with blocks and then that city started to form into a big city in the background. He illustrated a few children's books allowing his paintings to come into the homes of families and into schools. Ariana Grande even referenced his paintings in one of her music videos!

BORN
JUL 10, 1891
Toronto, Canada

—

DIED
JUN 14, 2017
Toronto, Canada



Education

Ryerson University

Famous Works

Sun Sets Sail

Arboreal Office



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VASSILY KANDINSKY

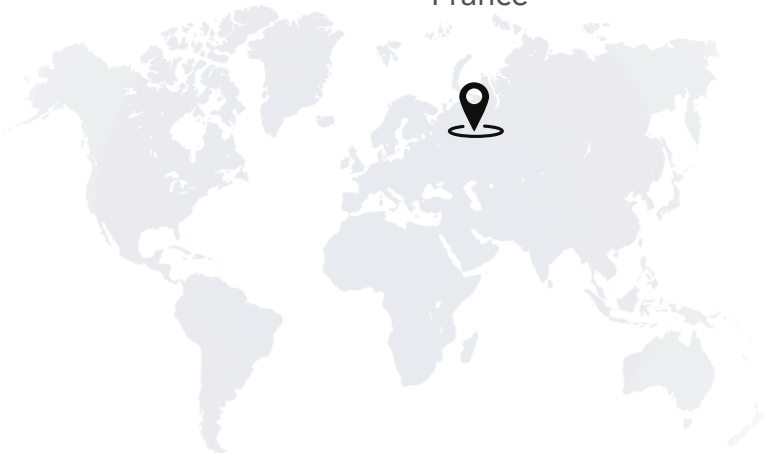
Painter



Wassily Kandinsky was a painter who lived from 1866-1944. Even though he was born in Russia, he spent much of his adult life in France and around Europe. He was an important person who helped shape the Abstract Art Movement, a group of artists who made artworks out of shapes, lines, and color rather than pictures of objects like trees and homes. It is said he painted the first Abstract piece of art! He used bold, bright colors throughout his work while being inspired by music. Along with being an artist, he was an art theorist where he would write about art, including publishing many books! He also taught adult classes on how to draw and about color.

BORN
DEC 16, 1866
Moscow, Russia

DIED
DEC 13, 1944
Neuilly-sur-Seine, France



Education

Academy of Fine Arts
Munich, Germany

Famous Works

Composition VIII

Circles in a Circle



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VASSILY KANDINSKY

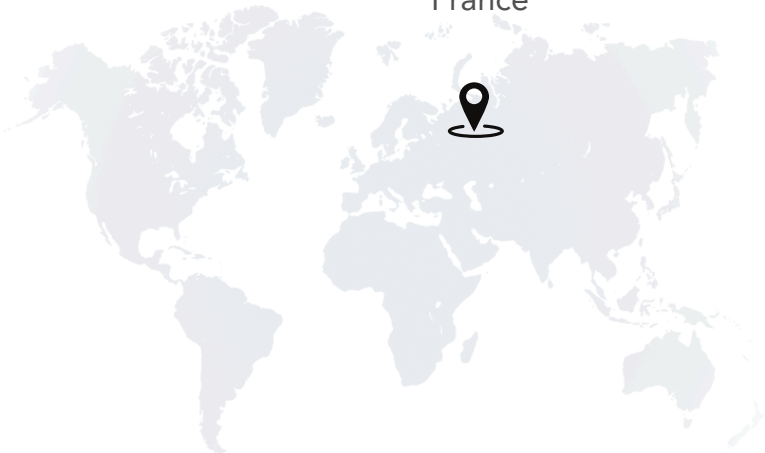
Painter



Wassily Kandinsky was a pioneering Russian painter and a key figure in the development of abstract art. Born on December 16, 1866, in Moscow, Kandinsky's early work was influenced by Impressionism and Fauvism, but he is best known for his role in creating and defining abstract art. His innovative use of color and form aimed to evoke emotional and spiritual responses, breaking away from representational art. Kandinsky co-founded the Bauhaus school in Germany, which became a significant center for modernist art and design. His theoretical writings, such as Concerning the Spiritual in Art, profoundly influenced the art world. Kandinsky's work remains celebrated for its exploration of abstraction and its impact on the trajectory of 20th-century art. He passed away on December 13, 1944, in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.

BORN
DEC 16, 1866
Moscow, Russia

DIED
DEC 13, 1944
Neuilly-sur-Seine, France



Education

Academy of Fine Arts
Munich, Germany

Famous Works

Composition VIII

Circles in a Circle



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WILLEM DE KOONING

Painter



Willem de Kooning was an Abstract Expressionist who lived from 1904-1997. He was born in the Netherlands but came to the United States in the 1920s as a stowaway, hiding on a boat! He arrived in New York and worked as a house painter. He worked with the government as a mural artist, creating large paintings and it convinced him to be an artist as his full-time job. He liked to experiment in his work, sometimes adding water and oil to the paints to make them slippery. His work went from making art of people, especially women, and then continued to be more of bright colors and shapes. His works are in museums all around the world, even with an art school named after him in the Netherlands!

BORN
APR 24, 1904
Rotterdam, Netherlands

DIED
MAR 19, 1997
East Hampton, NY



Education

Academie van Beeldende Kunsten en Technische Wetenschappen
Rotterdam, Netherlands

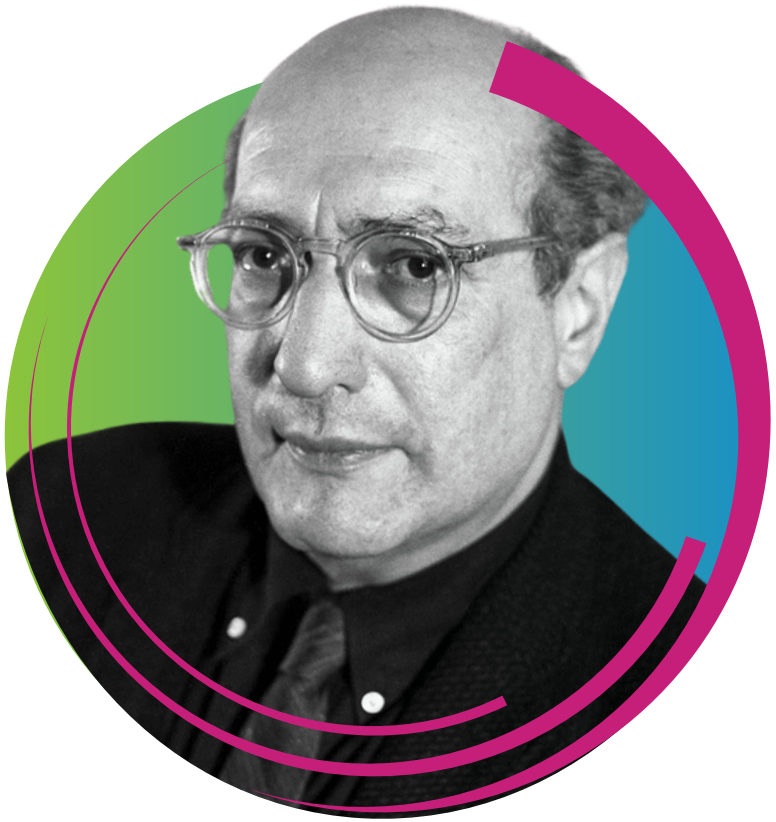
Famous Works

Woman III

Seated Woman



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MARK ROTHKO

Painter

Mark Rothko was an American painter who lived from 1903-1970. He was born in Latvia and moved to the United States when he was 10. He is an artist who loves color. He connects colors to emotions, like being happy, sad, or worried. Rothko believed that paintings didn't need objects or people to have an impact or for people to like them. He believed the colors drew people into the work. His artworks were also quite large, sometimes 19' tall! He didn't always name his artworks. They were often left Untitled or assigned a number. The National Gallery of Art in Washington DC has the largest collection of Rothko's works.

BORN
SEPT 25, 1903
Dvinsk, Latvia

DIED
FEB 25, 1970
New York, NY



Education

Yale University &
Art Students League of New York

Famous Works

Blue Orange Red

Yellow Pink and Lavendar on Rose



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KAREL APPEL

Painter

Karel Appel is a painter, sculptor, and poet from the Netherlands who lived from 1921-2006. He uses bold colors and thick layers of paint to create texture in his artwork. He wanted people to experience love, joy, fear, and pain through his art. Before his death, he created a foundation so people could learn and see his artwork. In 2002, some of his works went missing on the way to the foundation and were not found until 10 years later when they were found in an unused warehouse in the UK.

BORN
APR 25, 1921
Amsterdam, Netherlands

DIED
MAY 3, 2006
Zürich, Switzerland



Education

Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Famous Works

Il Pagliacci

Sunshine People



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GERHARD RICHTER

Painter

Gerhard Richter is a German visual artist who was born in 1932. Over the last 6 decades, he has been making paintings, drawings, photographs, prints, and sculptures. He was 15 when he started to draw regularly and became more interested in making art. Richter works with photo realism and with abstract art. Photorealism is when a painting looks just like a photo. He painted family members and everyday life, sometimes taking photos from magazines and newspapers for inspiration. His abstract art was just using a squeegee that would spread and scrape the paint across his canvas. His artwork is shown all around the world with many Retrospectives, art shows that show his work across his entire art career.

BORN

FEB 9, 1932

Dresden, Germany



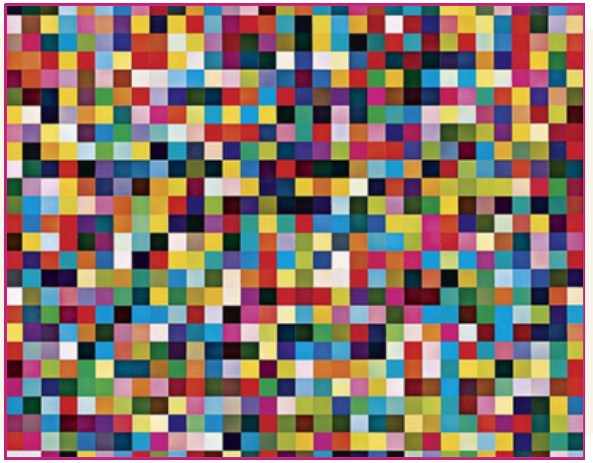
Education

Dresden Art Academy,
Kunstakademie, Düsseldorf

Famous Works

Betty

Candle



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NORMAN ROCKWELL

Painter

Norman Rockwell (1894-1978) was an American painter and illustrator. His style captured everyday life and was made for magazines. His artwork was the cover for Satruday Evening Post magazine that was published weekly. Art critics had a lot of feedback about his work due to its simplicity and illustrative style. However, his work spanned themes of American life such as the "Four Freedoms," which were inspired by President Roosevelt's speech and was used to raise money for war efforts in WWII. His work also showed history in real time such as "The Problem We All Live With" depicting Ruby Bridges being escorted to her first day at an all white public school. His work has been exhibited around the world with the largest collection in Stockbridge, Massachusets, where he was from.

BORN
FEB 3, 1894
New York, NY

—

DIED
NOV 8, 1978
Stockbridge, MA



Education

National Academy of Design,
Art Students League

Famous Works

Four Freedoms

Rosie the Riveter



© THE INSTITUTE FOR ARTS INTEGRATION AND STEAM



JASON NAYLOR

Artist & Designer

Jason Naylor is an award-winning artist, designer, and creative director based in Brooklyn. He began his work at MAC cosmetics where he learned about the business of art and design. He uses bright colors and a lot of black. He focuses on themes of love and positivity because Naylor believes that kindness is the key to success. He is most known for his bright colorful murals.

BORN

JULY 14

Salt Lake City, UT



Education

Brigham Young University

Famous Works

Do What You Love

Love



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MC ESCHER

Graphic Artist

M.C. Escher was a very special artist who lived in the Netherlands from 1898 to 1972. He loved to draw and create strange and amazing pictures that played tricks on your eyes! Escher's artwork often featured impossible objects, like staircases that went up and down at the same time, or water flowing uphill. He was very good at using patterns and shapes to create these illusions, and people all around the world loved looking at his art.

BORN
JUN 17, 1898
Leeuwarden, Netherlands

DIED
MAR 27, 1972
Hilversum, Netherlands



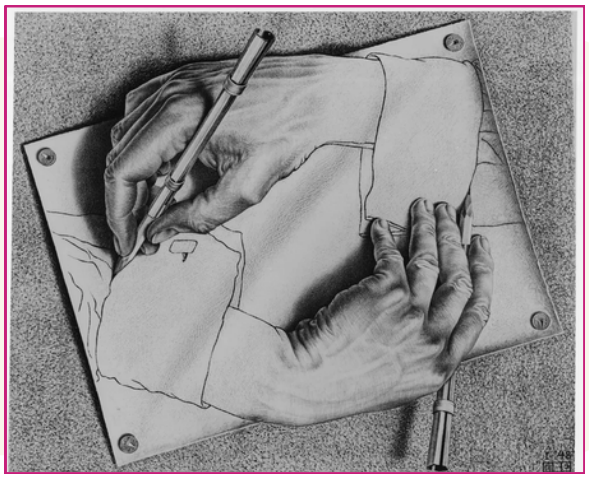
Education

Technical College of Delft, Delft, Netherlands

Famous Works

Bond of Union

Relativity



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WILL EISNER

Graphic Artist

Will Eisner, born on March 6, 1917, in Brooklyn, New York, was a pioneering American cartoonist and writer who played a crucial role in the development of the graphic novel. Often referred to as the father of the graphic novel, Eisner's innovative storytelling and artistic techniques transformed the comic book industry. He sometimes used the pseudonym Carl Heck, particularly in his early work. Eisner is best known for his creation "The Spirit," a masked detective series that featured groundbreaking layouts and sophisticated narratives. His work extended beyond entertainment; he also produced educational comics and instructional materials for the U.S. Army during World War II. His influential book, "A Contract with God," published in 1978, is considered one of the first graphic novels, blending autobiographical elements with fiction. Eisner continued to influence and shape the world of comics until his death on January 3, 2005.

BORN
MAR 6, 1917
Brooklyn, NY

—

DIED
JAN 3, 2005
Lauderdale Lakes, FL



Education

Art Students League,
New York, NY

Famous Works

Spirit

Aragones Perez



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PIET MONDRIAN

Painter

Piet Mondrian was an artist who lived from 1872 to 1944. He was born in the Netherlands and loved to draw and paint from a young age. As he grew older, Mondrian became famous for his unique and colorful paintings that featured geometric shapes, like squares and rectangles, arranged in a special way. This is nonrepresentational art because it is not meant to look like anything. He believed that art should be simple, balanced, and harmonious, and he spent his life creating beautiful and peaceful works of art.

BORN
MAR 7, 1872
Amersfoort, Netherlands

—

DIED
FEB 1, 1944
New York, NY



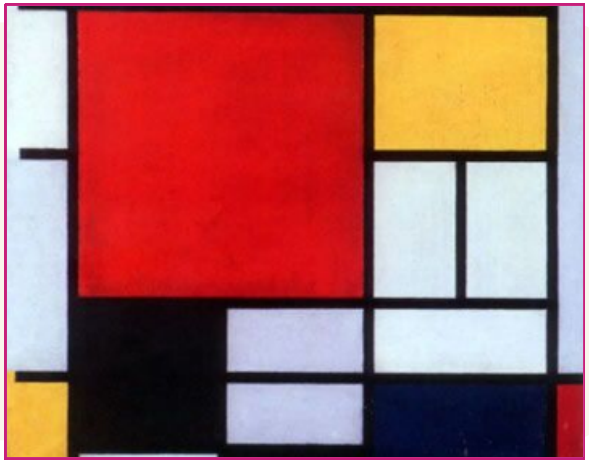
Education

Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Famous Works

Broadway Boogie Woogie

Composition with Color Planes



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PIET MONDRIAN

Painter

Piet Mondrian was a pioneering Dutch painter and a major figure in the development of abstract art. Born on March 7, 1872, in Amersfoort, Netherlands, Mondrian is best known for his development of the artistic style known as Neoplasticism. His work is characterized by a grid-based composition of vertical and horizontal lines with primary colors and black and white. Mondrian's approach sought to express universal harmony and order through precise geometric abstraction, moving away from representational art. His influence extended beyond painting to architecture and design, shaping the aesthetics of modernism. Mondrian passed away on February 1, 1944, in New York City, leaving a lasting legacy in the world of art.

BORN
MAR 7, 1872
Amersfoort, Netherlands

DIED
FEB 1, 1944
New York, NY



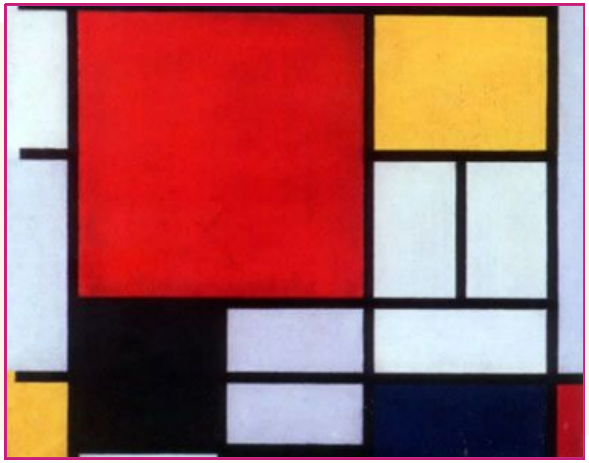
Education

Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Famous Works

Broadway Boogie Woogie

Composition with Color Planes



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ALEXIS DIAZ

Mural Artist

Alexis Diaz, a talented artist from Puerto Rico, transforms city walls into amazing, fantastical scenes with his detailed and precise line work. Born in San Juan, Diaz's art showcases his rich cultural background and vivid imagination, featuring hybrid creatures in surreal landscapes. He started his artistic journey with just a pen and has since created massive murals worldwide, blending fine art precision with the boldness of street art. Diaz's work is known for its technical skill and emotional impact, engaging communities and reflecting local cultures while inspiring creativity. His art turns the ordinary into the extraordinary, showing us the endless possibilities of our imaginations.

BORN

JUN 19, 1982

San Juan, PR



Education

Central School of Visual Arts,
San Juan School of Plastic Arts & Design

Famous Works

Octophant

Maverick Nature



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CORINE PERIER

Artist

Corine Perier is a talented French artist known for her captivating and imaginative sculptures that blend elements of animals and mythical beings, creating fantastical creatures that seem to come from a dream. Growing up in France, her love for art and nature shines through in her intricate designs, using a mix of materials to craft pieces that tell stories and evoke emotions. Showcased in galleries and exhibitions worldwide, Perier's work has earned her recognition and admiration for transforming ordinary materials into extraordinary works of art. Through her sculptures, she inspires wonder and curiosity, encouraging us to see the beauty in the unexpected and embrace the magic in everyday life.

BORN
1964
Paris, France



Education

History of Arts & Beaux Arts de Paris

Famous Works

Pegase
Isabelle
Le Ruban Rose
Lapin du Ciel
Boule de Neige



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JAMES PROSEK

Artist

James Prosek is an American artist known for his stunning and detailed paintings of wildlife, especially fish. Growing up in Connecticut, he developed a deep love for nature, which he expresses through his art. Prosek's work is celebrated for its realism and intricate detail, capturing the beauty and diversity of the natural world. He has exhibited his paintings in galleries and museums worldwide, earning widespread recognition. Beyond painting, Prosek is also an author and filmmaker, using various mediums to share his passion for nature and conservation. Through his art, he inspires people to appreciate and protect the beauty of the natural world.

BORN

MAY 23, 1975

Stamford, CT



Education

Yale University

Famous Works

Jumping Trout

Greenback Cutthroat Trout

Bird's Eye View



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LADY PINK

Artist

Lady Pink is a pioneering graffiti artist who made her mark in the male-dominated world of street art in the 1980s. Born Sandra Fabara in Ecuador and raised in New York City, she began tagging subway trains as a teenager and quickly gained recognition for her bold, colorful style. Known as the "First Lady of Graffiti," Lady Pink's work often features strong female characters and vibrant scenes that challenge societal norms. She has exhibited her art in galleries and museums around the world, proving that graffiti is a legitimate form of artistic expression. Lady Pink continues to inspire new generations of artists with her fearless creativity and dedication to her craft.

BORN
1964
Ambato, Ecuador



Education

Manhattan High School of Art & Design

Famous Works

Lady of the Leaf

Welcome to Flushing

9/11 Tribute



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LEWIS HINE

Muckraker Photographer

Lewis Hine was an American photographer known for his powerful images that helped bring social issues to light. Born in Wisconsin, Hine used his camera to document the lives of children working in factories and mines during the early 20th century. His photos showed the harsh conditions these children faced and played a key role in pushing for better labor laws and child labor reforms. Hine's work is celebrated for its ability to capture human dignity and provoke change through compelling, heartfelt images. His legacy continues to remind us of the power of photography to make a difference in society.

BORN
SEP 26, 1874
Oshkosh, WI

DIED
NOV 3, 1940
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY



Education

University of Chicago, Columbia University, NY University

Famous Works

The Littlest Laborers

Girl in Factory

Tenement Family



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FREDERIC AUGUSTE BARTHOLDI



Sculptor

Frederic Auguste Bartholdi was a talented French sculptor best known for designing the Statue of Liberty. Born in France, Bartholdi was inspired by the idea of creating a monumental statue to symbolize freedom and democracy. His vision became a reality when the Statue of Liberty was gifted to the United States by France in 1886. The statue, standing tall in New York Harbor, has since become a powerful symbol of hope and welcome for millions of immigrants arriving in America. Bartholdi's work extends beyond this iconic statue, but it's his design of the Statue of Liberty that has made him famous and left a lasting impact on both art and history.

BORN
APR 2, 1834
Colmar, France

—

DIED
OCT 4, 1904
Paris, France



Education

Lycée Louis-le-Grand, École national supérieure des Beaux-Arts

Famous Works

Allegory of Africa

Bartholdi Fountain in Washington DC



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ALEXANDER CALDER

Sculptor

Alexander Calder was a pioneering American artist known for his innovative sculptures and mobiles. Born in 1898 in Pennsylvania, Calder became famous for creating art that moved and changed shape, adding a new dimension to sculpture. His mobiles, which are sculptures that hang and move with the air, and his stabiles, which are stationary but dynamic, brought a playful and modern touch to art. Calder's work was not only visually striking but also engaging and interactive, making him a key figure in 20th-century art. His creativity and unique approach continue to influence and inspire artists today.

BORN
JUL 22, 1898
Lawnton, PA

DIED
NOV 11, 1976
New York, NY



Education

Stevens Institute of Technology

Famous Works

Eagle

Monumental Sculpture

Derrière le Miroir



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TODD CHILTON

Painter

Todd Chilton is a contemporary artist known for his creative work in painting and mixed media. Born in the United States, Chilton combines different materials and techniques to create unique and visually striking art pieces. His work often explores themes of identity, memory, and the passage of time. Chilton's art is recognized for its rich textures and vibrant colors, and he has exhibited his pieces in various galleries and art shows. His innovative approach and thought-provoking themes make him a notable figure in the modern art world.

BORN
1977
Chula Vista, CA



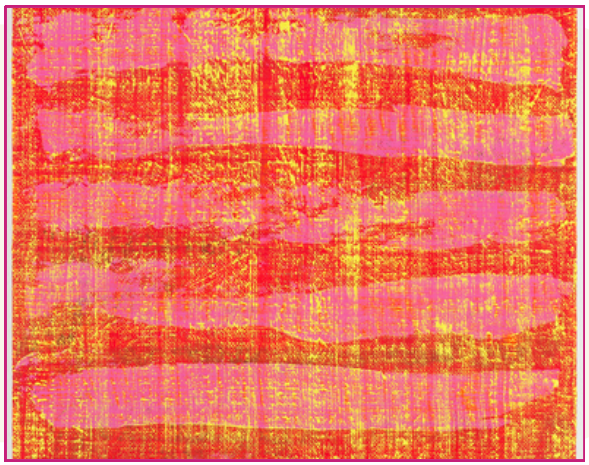
Education

Brigham Young University,
The School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Famous Works

Blue Green Ramps & Flags

Blue Overlap



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PABLO PICASSO

Painter

Pablo Picasso was a groundbreaking Spanish artist known for his influential contributions to modern art. Born in 1881 in Spain, Picasso became famous for his unique and innovative styles, including Cubism, where he painted subjects from multiple angles at once. His famous works, like Guernica and Les Demoiselles d'Avignon, showcase his creativity and ability to break away from traditional art forms. Picasso's art is known for its bold colors, abstract shapes, and powerful messages. Throughout his long career, he created thousands of paintings, sculptures, and drawings, leaving a lasting impact on the art world and inspiring countless artists.

BORN
OCT 25, 1881
Málaga, Spain

DIED
APR 8, 1973
Mougins, France



Education

San Fernando Fine Art
Royal Academy

Famous Works

The Old Guitarist

Three Musicians

Guernica



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KEN BURNS

Filmmaker

Ken Burns is a famous filmmaker who creates documentaries that help us learn about American history. He was born on July 29, 1953, in Brooklyn, New York. Ken makes movies that tell stories about important events, like the Civil War and the National Parks, using interviews, old photographs, and music. His films are loved by many people because they make history exciting and easy to understand. Through his work, Ken teaches us about the past and why it matters today.

BORN

JUL 29, 1953

Brooklyn, NY



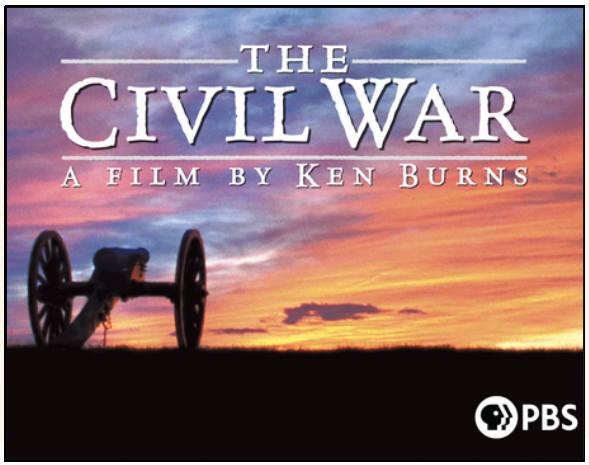
Education

Hampshire College,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Famous Works

The Declaration of Independence

The Civil War (Fort Sumter)



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KSENIYA SIMONOVA

Sand Artist

Kseniya Simonova, born on April 22, 1985, in Yevpatoria, Ukraine, is a renowned Ukrainian artist famous for her incredible sand animation performances. She gained international fame after winning "Ukraine's Got Talent" in 2009, where she captivated audiences with her mesmerizing ability to create stunning stories using only sand and light. Simonova's unique art form combines drawing, animation, and performance, often portraying poignant and emotional narratives, including historical events and personal stories. Her work has been widely celebrated for its creativity and emotional depth, earning her numerous awards and opportunities to perform around the world. Simonova continues to inspire and enchant audiences with her innovative sand art, leaving a lasting impact on the world of visual storytelling.

BORN

APR 22, 1985

Yevpatoria, Crimea
Ukraine



Education

Artistic School of Yevpatoria;
School of Fine Arts

Famous Works

Britain's Got Talent

Why We Are Here



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NEV SCHULMAN

TV Host, Producer, & Writer

Nev Schulman is best known for his work on the MTV series "Catfish: The TV Show." Schulman first gained attention with the 2010 documentary film "Catfish," which he co-directed with his brother, Ariel Schulman. The film, exploring the complexities of online relationships, became a cultural phenomenon and led to the creation of the television series. As the host of "Catfish," Schulman helps people uncover the true identities of their online relationships, often revealing surprising and emotional truths. Beyond his work on the show, he is an advocate for online safety and transparency. Schulman has also authored a book, "In Real Life: Love, Lies & Identity in the Digital Age," sharing insights and advice on navigating the digital world. In 2020, Schulman competed on "Dancing with the Stars," where he impressed audiences with his dance skills and finished as the runner-up.

BORN

SEP 26, 1984

New York, NY



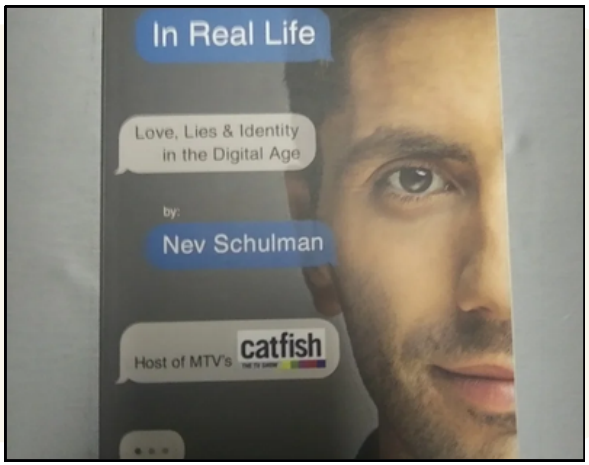
Education

Sarah Lawrence College,
Yonkers, NY

Famous Works

Evolution of Catfishing

Dancing with the Stars



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NATASHA TSAKOS

Artist, Actress, & Innovator

Natasha Tsakos is a Swiss-born artist, actress, and digital media innovator known for her interdisciplinary approach to performance and technology. Born on January 8, 1980, in Geneva, Switzerland, Tsakos is celebrated for her work that blends live performance with cutting-edge digital technology, creating immersive and interactive experiences. She gained notable recognition with her TED Talk, where she demonstrated her innovative approach to integrating technology and storytelling. Tsakos's projects often explore the intersection of art, technology, and human experience, pushing the boundaries of traditional performance and engaging audiences in new and dynamic ways. Her work has been featured in various international festivals and exhibitions, showcasing her creativity and vision in the realm of digital art.

BORN

JAN 8, 1980

Geneva, Switzerland



Education

University of Florida,
Gainesville, FL

Famous Works

Upwake

Multimedia Theatrical Adventure



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GARETH PUGH

Fashion Designer

Gareth Pugh is a British fashion designer renowned for his avant-garde and boundary-pushing designs. Born on August 31, 1981, in Sunderland, England, Pugh is known for his sculptural, experimental approach to fashion, often incorporating unconventional materials and dramatic silhouettes. His work is characterized by its bold use of shape and texture, blending elements of theater and high fashion. Pugh gained prominence with his innovative runway shows and has since been celebrated for his contributions to contemporary fashion. His designs have been featured in prestigious fashion exhibitions and worn by notable figures, solidifying his reputation as a leading figure in the world of fashion.

BORN

AUG 31, 1981

Sunderland, England



Education

City of Sunderland College,
University of the Arts, London

Famous Works

Inflated Clothing

Spring 2007 line



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IRIS VAN HERPEN

Fashion Designer

Iris van Herpen is a Dutch fashion designer renowned for her innovative and futuristic approach to couture fashion. Born on June 5, 1984, in Wamel, Netherlands, van Herpen is celebrated for her use of cutting-edge technology and unconventional materials, often incorporating 3D printing and other advanced techniques into her designs. Her work is distinguished by its sculptural forms and intricate details, blending elements of art, science, and fashion. Van Herpen's creations have been showcased in major fashion exhibitions and worn by celebrities, establishing her as a leading figure in the realm of high fashion and experimental design. Her unique vision continues to push the boundaries of traditional couture.

BORN

JUN 5, 1984

Wamel, Netherlands



Education

ArtEZ University of the Arts

Famous Works

Multi-layered gown

Meta-morphism



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JULIE ANDREWS

Actress & Singer

Julie Andrews is a British actress, singer, and author who was born in 1975. She started acting as a child with her parents at the theater in London but by the time she was 19, she was performing on Broadway, where many theatres are in New York City. Her music went from theatre to film starring in Mary Poppins and The Sound of Music. She has won many awards for acting and singing. The Queen of England made her a Dame, which is the same as becoming a knight! Her work continues in movies and has even led to writing children's books! She has co-authored several children's books with her daughter, Emma Walton Hamilton.

BORN

OCT 1, 1935

Walton-on-
Thames, England



Education

Cone-Ripman School

Famous Works

"Do-Re-Mi" from the Sound of Music

"Spoonful of Sugar" from Mary Poppins

Princess Diaries



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WILLIAM IVEY LONG

Costume Designer

William Ivey Long is an American costume designer born in 1947. Long works on Broadway where a bunch of theatres, musicals, and plays take place in New York City. He has designed for over 75 Broadway shows where he had to make costumes for shows set in the 1950's, who had characters attending royal balls, and that took place in a land imagined by Dr. Seuss. He has been honored for his work by being nominated and winning multiple awards and being in the Theatre Hall of Fame.

BORN

AUG 30, 1947

Raleigh, NC



Education

College of William & Mary
UNC - Chapel Hill
Yale University

Famous Designs

Cinderella
Hairspray
The Producers



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LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA

Songwriter, Actor, & Producer

Lin-Manuel Miranda is an artist who loves to make music, write plays, and create amazing stories. He was born in New York City and grew up loving musicals and hip-hop. As a kid, he would put on shows in his living room for his family and friends. Now, he's famous for creating the hit musicals "In the Heights" and "Hamilton", which tell stories about people from all different backgrounds and cultures, and writing the music for Disney movies like “Moana” and “Encanto.” Lin-Manuel is all about using his talents to bring people together and make them feel happy, inspired, and connected.

BORN

JAN 16, 1980

New York, NY



Education

Wesleyan University
Middletown, CT

Famous Works

We Don't Talk About Bruno

How Far I'll Go



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LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA

Songwriter, Actor, & Producer

Lin-Manuel Miranda is a brilliant American composer, lyricist, and actor, best known for creating and starring in the hit Broadway musicals Hamilton and In the Heights. Born and raised in New York City, Miranda grew up with a love for both musical theater and hip hop, which he skillfully combines in his work. His groundbreaking musical Hamilton, which tells the story of Alexander Hamilton using rap and diverse casting, won numerous awards and changed the face of modern theater. Miranda's talent for writing catchy, thought-provoking songs and his dynamic performances have made him a major influence in the arts. Beyond Broadway, he has contributed to various films, TV shows, and charitable causes, inspiring people worldwide with his creativity and passion.

BORN

JAN 16, 1980

New York, NY



Education

Wesleyan University
Middletown, CT

Famous Works

Aaron Burr, Sir / My Shot

Miranda's Advice for Students



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IDINA MENZEL

Actress, Singer, & Songwriter

Idina Menzel, born on May 30, 1971, in Syosset, New York, is a celebrated American actress, singer, and songwriter. She is best known for her powerful voice and her roles in musical theater. Menzel gained fame for her performance as Maureen Johnson in the Broadway musical "Rent" and later won a Tony Award for her role as Elphaba in "Wicked." She also voiced Queen Elsa in Disney's animated film "Frozen," where her rendition of the song "Let It Go" became a global sensation. Menzel has released several solo albums and continues to perform on stage and screen. Her exceptional talent and contributions to musical theater and film have made her a beloved and influential figure in the entertainment industry.

BORN

MAY 30, 1971

Syosset, NY



Education

NYU Tisch School of the Arts,
New York, NY

Famous Works

Defying Gravity

Let It Go



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JORDAN FISHER

Actor, Singer, & Dancer

Jordan Fisher, born on April 24, 1994, in Birmingham, Alabama, is a talented American actor, singer, and dancer. Fisher began his career on television, appearing in popular shows such as "The Secret Life of the American Teenager" and "Liv and Maddie." He gained widespread recognition for his roles in the Broadway productions of "Hamilton" and "Dear Evan Hansen," showcasing his exceptional talents in musical theater. Fisher also won the 25th season of "Dancing with the Stars," further highlighting his versatility as a performer. In addition to acting, he has released music, including his self-titled EP, and starred in films like "To All the Boys: P.S. I Still Love You" and the Netflix movie "Work It." Jordan Fisher continues to captivate audiences with his charisma and multifaceted talent across various entertainment platforms.

BORN

APR 24, 1994

Birmingham, AL



Education

Red Mountain Theatre Co.,
Jacksonville State University

Famous Works

"If I Could Tell Her" from Dear Evan Hansen

Dancing with the Stars



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ARIANA DEBOSE

Actress, Singer, & Dancer

Ariana DeBose is an acclaimed American actress, singer, and dancer known for her dynamic performances on stage and screen. Born on January 25, 1991, in Wilmington, North Carolina, DeBose gained widespread recognition for her role as Anita in the 2021 film adaptation of West Side Story, for which she won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress. Her stage career includes notable roles in productions such as Hamilton, Pippin, and Summer: The Donna Summer Musical. DeBose also made history as the first openly queer woman of color to host the Tony Awards in 2022, which she hosted again in 2023 and 2024. With her remarkable talent and versatility, she has become a significant figure in contemporary theater and film.

BORN

JAN 25, 1991

Wilmington, NC



Education

Western Carolina University

Famous Works

"America" from West Side Story

"This Wish" from Wish



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MEL GIBSON

Actor & Director

Mel Gibson is a well-known American actor and filmmaker famous for his roles in movies like Mad Max and Lethal Weapon. Born in 1956 in New York, Gibson gained fame in the 1980s and 1990s for his intense and dynamic performances. He also made a name for himself as a director with films like Braveheart, which won him the Academy Award for Best Director. Gibson's career has included a mix of acting, directing, and producing, making him a prominent figure in Hollywood. Despite facing some controversies, his contributions to film have left a lasting impact on the industry.

BORN

JAN 3, 1956

Peeksill, NY



Education

University of New South Wales

Famous Works

The Patriot

Hamlet



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ETHAN HAWKE

Actor, Director, & Writer

Ethan Hawke is a talented American actor, director, and writer known for his diverse roles in film and theater. Born in 1970 in Austin, Texas, Hawke began his acting career as a teenager and gained fame with movies like Dead Poets Society and Before Sunrise. He's known for his strong performances and ability to tackle a wide range of characters. In addition to acting, Hawke has directed films and written novels, showcasing his creativity across different fields. His work has earned him critical acclaim and a devoted following, making him a respected and influential figure in the entertainment industry.

BORN

NOV 6, 1970

Austin, TX



Education

Carnegie Mellon University,
New York University

Famous Works

Dead Poet Society

Great Expectations



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PAAPA ESSIEDU

Actor

Paapa Essiedu is a talented British actor known for his impressive performances on stage and screen. Born in 1990, Essiedu gained recognition for his powerful role in the acclaimed stage production of Hamlet at the Royal Shakespeare Company. He's also known for his work in TV shows like I May Destroy You, where he received praise for his acting skills. Essiedu's ability to bring depth and authenticity to his characters has made him a rising star in the entertainment industry, and he continues to captivate audiences with his dynamic performances.

BORN

JUN 11, 1990

London, England



Education

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Famous Works

Interview with Paapa

Hamlet



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HIP HOP SHAKESPEARE CO.

Theatre/Dance Organization

The Hip Hop Shakespeare Company is a unique arts organization that blends the worlds of hip hop and Shakespeare to create exciting and engaging performances. Founded by British rapper Akala, the company aims to make Shakespeare's works more accessible and relatable, especially to young people. By combining Shakespeare's timeless themes with the energy and creativity of hip hop, they create shows that are both educational and entertaining. The Hip Hop Shakespeare Company tours schools and theaters, using music, rap, and drama to show how Shakepeare's plays can still resonate today. Their innovative approach not only brings Shakespeare to life but also highlights the powerful storytelling found in hip hop.

ESTABLISHED:

2009

London, England



Website

Hip Hop Shakespeare Co.

Famous Works

Hip Hop & Shakespeare

Why Hip Hop Shakespeare?

How to Rap Shakespeare



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ALVIN AILEY

Dancer & Choreographer

Alvin Ailey was born in 1931 in Texas. He was a dancer, director, and choreographer who wanted to bring theater, modern dance, ballet, and jazz mixed with Black vernacular to spread global awareness of Black life in America. Alvin's young life was difficult as he was raised by a single mother who struggled to find employment to meet their needs. He moved to California as a young teenager and it was in high school that he fell in love with modern dance. In 1969 he founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center to provide access to arts and dance to underprivileged childern in the New York City area. His dance company still a very significant presence in the world of dance.

BORN
JAN 5, 1931
Rogers, TX

DIED
DEC 1, 1989
New York, NY



Education

Lester Horton Dance Studio

Famous Works

Alvin Ailey portraits



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ALVIN AILEY

Dancer & Choreographer

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is a famous dance company founded in 1958 by Alvin Ailey, a talented choreographer. Based in New York City, the company is known for its energetic and expressive performances that blend different dance styles, including modern and African dance. One of their most famous pieces is Revelations, which tells powerful stories about African American culture and history through dance. The company has become an important part of American culture, celebrating diversity and inspiring audiences with its vibrant shows, performing works by Ailey as well as other choreographers.

BORN
JAN 5, 1931
Rogers, TX

DIED
DEC 1, 1989
New York, NY



Education

Lester Horton Dance Studio

Famous Works

Alvin Ailey portraits



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GARTH FAGAN

Dancer & Choreographer



Garth Fagan is a distinguished Jamaican-American choreographer and dancer, best known for his innovative work in modern dance. Born on May 1, 1940, in Kingston, Jamaica, Fagan founded the Garth Fagan Dance company in 1970. His unique style blends African, Caribbean, and modern dance influences, creating dynamic and expressive performances. Fagan gained significant acclaim for his work on the Broadway production of The Lion King, for which he won a Tony Award for Best Choreography in 1998. His contributions to dance have been widely recognized, earning him numerous awards and honors, including the Order of Distinction from the Jamaican government. Fagan's influence extends beyond his choreography, as he is also celebrated for his role in advancing the visibility of diverse dance forms.

BORN

MAY 3, 1940

Kingston, Jamaica



Education

Wayne State University,
Detroit, MI

Famous Works

He Lives In You from Lion King

From Before



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ANDY BLANKENBUEHLER

Dancer & Choreographer

Andy Blankenbuehler is a prominent American choreographer known for his innovative and influential work on Broadway and beyond. Born on March 7, 1970, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Blankenbuehler gained acclaim for his distinctive choreography that combines contemporary dance with traditional musical theater. He is best known for his work on the Tony Award-winning musicals In the Heights and Hamilton, where his dynamic and narrative-driven choreography played a crucial role in the shows' success. Blankenbuehler's choreographic style often integrates elements of hip-hop, Latin, and jazz, reflecting his versatility and creativity. His contributions to theater have earned him numerous accolades, solidifying his reputation as a leading figure in modern musical theater choreography.

BORN

MAR 7, 1970

Cincinnati, OH



Education

Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX

Famous Works

Building Broadway

Choreographing Hamilton



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MARTHA GRAHAM

Dancer & Choreographer

Martha Graham was a groundbreaking American dancer and choreographer who changed the world of modern dance. Born in Pennsylvania, she developed a unique dance style that focused on expressing deep emotions and stories through movement. Graham's innovative techniques, like her use of contraction and release, helped redefine dance as a powerful form of personal and artistic expression. She founded the Martha Graham Dance Company, which performed her dramatic and expressive choreography for decades. Her work has inspired countless dancers and continues to influence the world of dance, making her one of the most important figures in modern dance history.

BORN
MAY 11, 1894
Allegheny, PA

DIED
APR 1, 1991
New York, NY



Education

Denishawn School of Dancing & Related Arts

Famous Works

Martha Graham on Technique

Graham's Dark Meadow Suite



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THE ROCKETTES

Dancers

The Rockettes, founded in 1925 in New York City, are a world-famous precision dance troupe known for their iconic high-kicking performances. Originally called the "American Radio Girls," the group gained fame for their elaborate Christmas shows at Radio City Music Hall, where they have performed annually in the renowned Radio City Christmas Spectacular. The Rockettes are celebrated for their synchronized routines, glamorous costumes, and impressive choreography, making them a symbol of American showbiz and a beloved fixture of the holiday season.

ESTABLISHED

1925

St. Louis, Missouri



Famous Moves

Eye-High Kicks

Toy Soldiers Falling Down

Thanksgiving Day Parade '23

The Original Rockettes



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