

Resumés Rewritten

Tony Bennett

Anthony Dominick Benedetto is a living example of how true art can survive through several generations. Better known as Tony Bennett, he is one of the few artists to have albums chart in every decade from the 1950s into the new millennium. Born in 1926, the award-winning singer has some of his best-selling albums available on iTunes and can be added as a friend on MySpace. Bennett is the voice behind unforgettable number-one songs such as 'Because of You', 'Fly me to the Moon', 'Cold, Cold Heart', 'Rags to Riches' and 'I Left My Heart in San Francisco', which earned him two Grammy Awards.

Raised in New York, the Italian-born immigrant was the son of a grocer. His boyhood idols included Nat King Cole and Bing Crosby and he sang while waiting tables as a teenager before performing with military bands throughout his overseas army duty during the Second World War. One of his most famous performances was the recording of 'Blue Velvet' in the 1950s, which attracted thousands of screaming fans around the Paramount Theatre in New York. Although his career suffered a downturn during the peak of the rock music era, he has undoubtedly withstood it, only to become more successful. The MTV generation took Tony Bennett to heart thanks to his appearance with the Red Hot Chili Peppers on the 1993 *MTV Video Awards*. This was followed by his appearance in *MTV Unplugged*, which resulted in

a recording of the same name. Since 1993, Bennett has also made several appearances on Conan O'Brien's *Late Night* and *The Tonight Show*. The *New York Times* has notably commented by saying "Tony Bennett has not just



bridged the generation gap; he has demolished it".

With worldwide record sales in the millions and dozens of platinum and gold albums to his credit, Bennett has received 15 Grammy Awards including the prestigious Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. He also became

a Kennedy Centre Honouree in 2005; was named an NEA Jazz Master in 2006, and received *Billboard* magazine's elite Century Award in honour of his outstanding contributions to music. However, music isn't his only contribution to the world. Bennett started nurturing his dual passions of singing and painting while attending the High School of Industrial Arts in Manhattan. Moreover, painting to him is much more than a hobby. The accomplished artist creates works under his real family name – Benedetto. His artistic journey began at the age of five, drawing chalk pictures on the sidewalks of his hometown in Astoria. Bennett is said to paint every day, sketching the view from the windows of his hotel suite or of the countryside through which he travels. The United Nations has commissioned his artwork on two occasions, including their 50th anniversary *Peace and Brotherhood*, which was purchased by Oprah Winfrey for her personal collection. Other celebrities who are owners of original Benedetto's are Bill Clinton, Whoopi Goldberg, the late Frank Sinatra, Donald Trump and

Katie Couric, to name a few. Seven of Bennett's paintings have been published as museum-quality limited edition, fine-art original lithographs. A constant source of inspiration, Tony Bennett's emotional forms of vocal and visual expressions continue to capture audiences of all ages and backgrounds. ■