

## ALESSANDRA AMOROSO



NAME: Alessandra

SURNAME: Amoroso

DATE OF BIRTH: 12 August 1986

PLACE OF BIRTH: in Galatina, Lecce

She is an Italian pop/soul singer. She was the winner of the 2009 edition of the Italian talent show Amici di Maria De Filippi. In 2014, she became the first female Italian artist to win the MTV Europe Music Award for the Best European Act. Since an early age, Amoroso participated in numerous local competitions, obtaining good results. In June 2007, she participated in a contest, Fiori di Pesco, singing the song Amor mio, and placed first among the competitors, and was rewarded by Mogol (a famous Italian song writer). When she was seventeen, she participated in the auditions for Amici but she failed. On October 5, 2008, Amoroso passed the audition for the eight season of Amici di Maria De Filippi.

Her most famous songs: Immobile, Find A Way , Stupida, Senza nuvole, Estranei a partire da ieri, Senza nuvole, Mi sei venuto a cercare tu, Arrivi tu, Il mondo in un secondo and La mia storia con te

## LUCIANO PAVAROTTI



NAME: Luciano

SURNAME: Pavarotti

DATE OF BIRTH: 12 October 1935

DATE OF DEATH: 6 September 2007

He was an Italian operatic tenor who also crossed over into popular music, eventually becoming one of the most commercially successful tenors of all time. He made numerous recordings of complete operas and individual arias, gaining worldwide fame for the brilliance and beauty of his tone—especially into the upper register—and eventually established himself as one of the finest tenors of

the 20th century.

As one of the Three Tenors, Pavarotti became well known for his televised concerts and media appearances. From the beginning of his professional career as a tenor in 1961 in Italy to his final performance of "Nessun dorma" at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Pavarotti was at his best in bel canto operas, pre-*Aida* Verdi roles, and Puccini works such as *La bohème*, *Tosca*, and *Madama Butterfly*. Pavarotti was also noted for his charity work on behalf of refugees and the Red Cross, amongst others.

He died from pancreatic cancer on 6 September 2007.

On 12 December 1998, he became the first (and, to date, only) opera singer to perform on *Saturday Night Live*, singing alongside Vanessa L. Williams. He also sang with U2 in the band's 1995 song "Miss Sarajevo" and with Mercedes Sosa in a big concert at the Boca Juniors arena La Bombonera in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1999. In 1998, Pavarotti was presented with the Grammy Legend Award.

## LAURA PAUSINI



NAME: Laura

SURNAME: Pausini

DATE OF BIRTH: 16 May 1974

PLACE OF BIRTH: in Solarolo, Emilia-Romagna, Italy

She is an Italian pop singer-songwriter and record producer. As a child, she was encouraged by her father to join him during his performances in local piano bars. After competing in local singing contests, Pausini signed her first recording contract. She rose to fame in 1993, winning the newcomer artists' section of the 43rd Sanremo Musical Festival, with her debut single "La solitudine", which became an Italian standard and an international hit, topping the charts in Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium. Her eponymous debut album was released in Italy on 23 April 1993 and later became an international success, selling two million copies worldwide. During her career, she has won numerous music awards, including three Latin Grammy Awards, a Billboard Latin Music Award and four World Music Awards. In 2006 she also became the first Italian female artist to win a Grammy Award, receiving the accolade for Best Latin Pop Album for the record *Escucha*. She has been honoured as a Commander Order of Merit of the Italian Republic by President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi.

In 1987 she recorded her first demo album, produced by her father and released to promote her live shows. Titled *I sogni di Laura*, it consisted of eight covers and five new songs. In 1991 she participated in the Castrocaro Music Festival singing Liza Minnelli's "New York, New York". Despite being declared joint winner with another contestant, Pausini was not allowed to compete in the Sanremo Music Festival 1992.

Laura Pausini is described as a mezzo-soprano with a classic and powerful voice. Due to her voice, Pausini has been compared by music critics to various female artists, including Milva, Celine Dion, Mariah Carey and Barbra Streisand.

At the beginning of her career, she was considered by music critics as a teen idol mainly singing about adolescent love affairs and problems.

## TIZIANO FERRO



NAME: Tiziano

SURNAME: Ferro

DATE OF BIRTH: 21 February 1980

PLACE OF BIRTH: Latina (Lazio)

Tiziano Ferro is an Italian singer-songwriter, producer and author. He broke through in 2001 with his international hit single "Perdono" and has remained commercially successful since then, primarily in his home country.

Ferro has released a Spanish version of each of his albums, and has also sung in English, Portuguese, and French. Known as the modern face of Italian pop music, he frequently writes songs for other artists and has produced albums for Giusy Ferreri, Alessandra Amoroso and Baby K.

Aside from his success as an artist, Ferro is well known for his personal struggles. Having been overweight as a teenager, he has been outspoken about his battles with food addiction and eating disorders. In May 2006, several comments he made during an interview on Italian television resulted in major controversy abroad, effectively ending his blossoming career in Latin America. In October 2010, at the height of his fame, Ferro came out as gay, admitting that he had remained closeted out of fear that his homosexuality was not compatible with a career as a pop singer.

Since his debut in 2001, Ferro has worked himself up to becoming one of the best-selling artists in Italy today. Both his third album *Nessuno è solo* and fourth album *Alla mia età* were certified diamond. Despite his fears, his coming-out did not negatively affect his career, as fifth album *L'amore è una cosa semplice* was the best-selling album of 2012 in Italy, and the tour supporting this album included his first full stadium concert at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome.

## LUCIANO LIGABUE



NAME: Luciano

SURNAME: Ligabue

DATE OF BIRTH: 13  
March 1960

PLACE OF BIRTH:  
Correggio (Emilia  
Romagna)

Before becoming a  
successful singer, Ligabue

had various jobs, working in agriculture and in factories. He entered the music world in 1987, when he founded the amateur band Orazero. For this band he wrote several original songs, with which they participated in several local and national contests. The following year his fellow Emilian singer-songwriter Pierangelo Bertoli was the first to discover Ligabue's writing talents, and included one of Ligabue's songs, "Sogni di Rock'n'Roll" ("Rock n roll dreams"), in his new LP.

His most famous hits include Balliamo sul mondo (Let's Dance On The World), Ho perso le parole (I've lost words) and the most successful of all, Certe Notti (Certain Nights), which was voted as "Italian song of the 1990s" in a poll held by a popular music magazine. He also collaborated with another famous singer-songwriter, Francesco Guccini, who also had a part in Ligabue's first movie (see below).

Ligabue directed his first movie, Radiofreccia, in 1998, a semi-autobiographical story of a local radio station. Critics acclaimed it as surprisingly well shot for a newcomer, and the film received 3 David di Donatello (the highest award in Italian cinema).

## FEDEZ



NAME: Federico Leonardo

SURNAME: Lucia

DATE OF BIRTH: 15 October  
1989

PLACE OF BIRTH: Milan  
(Lombardia)

Federico Leonardo Lucia, known by his stage name Fedez, is an Italian rapper and singer. In

2011, he released the albums *Penisola che non c'è* and *Il mio primo disco da venduto*, released as free digital downloads. His first major studio album, *Sig. Brainwash - L'arte di accontentare*, was released in 2013, and it debuted at number one on the Italian Albums Chart. The album, which spawned three singles, including the top ten hit "Cigno nero" featuring Francesca Michielin, was later certified 3 X's platinum by the Federation of the Italian Music Industry. Federico Leonardo Lucia was born in Milan on 15 October 1989.

In January 2013, Fedez released his first single for a major label, "Si scrive schiavitù ma si legge libertà". The album was also preceded by the top ten single "Cigno nero", performed with Francesca Michielin, which was also certified platinum by the Federation of the Italian Music Industry. The album debuted at number one on the Italian Albums Chart, and it was later certified triple platinum denoting sales exceeding 180,000 units.

In June 2013, Fedez was also a guest judge during the auditions of the seventh season of the Italian talent show *X Factor*. In May 2013, it was announced that Fedez and Victoria Cabello would replace Elio and Simona Ventura as judges on the eighth season of the Italian version of *X Factor* alongside Morgan and Mika. His fourth studio album, *Pop-Hoolista*, was released on 30 September 2014. Preceded by the single "Generazione boh", the record also includes duets with Malika Ayane, Francesca Michielin, Noemi, Elisa and J-Ax. The album debuted atop the Italian Albums Chart, and it was certified gold one week after its release.

By Carlotta, Domizia, Francesca, Sofia and Teresa 2 H

