

Leonard Cohen

1934 – 2016

Legendary singer-songwriter, novelist and poet who addressed the themes of love and faith, agony and ecstasy, solitude, war and politics



■ **Sep 21, 1934: Leonard Norman Cohen** born in Montreal, Canada. Father **Nathan** is from Poland, mother **Masha** is of Lithuanian descent, daughter of Talmudic scholar

■ **1951-55:** Graduates with Bachelor of Arts from McGill University

■ **1956:** First book of poetry, *“Let Us Compare Mythologies,”* published

■ **1960s:** After sojourn in London, Cohen purchases house on Greek island of Hydra. *“The Spice-Box of Earth,”* critically acclaimed book of poetry (1961) is followed by novels *The Favourite Game* (1963) and *Beautiful Losers* (1966). Meets **Marianne Ihlen**, muse and inspiration behind *“So Long, Marianne”*



■ **1967:** Signed to Columbia Records by **John Hammond** – talent scout who also signed **Bob Dylan**. Releases debut album *“Songs of Leonard Cohen.”* Album features two of his most famous compositions, *“Suzanne”* and *“Sisters of Mercy”*

■ **1984: “Various Positions”** includes iconic song, *“Hallelujah”*

■ **1988:** Releases *“I’m Your Man”* to wide international acclaim

■ **1992: “The Future”** – album describes advanced decay of society

■ **1994-99:** Enters Buddhist monastery, ordained as a monk

■ **2001:** Releases *“Ten New Songs”*



■ **2005:** Successfully sues former manager for taking \$5 million from his savings, but does not receive any money

■ **2008:** Inducted into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Returns to touring

■ **2010:** Receives Lifetime Achievement Grammy award

■ **2012:** Gruelling world tour of Europe, North America and Australia



■ **Oct 2016:** Album *“You Want It Darker”* – last of 14 studio albums – is met with rave reviews

■ **Nov 10, 2016: Leonard Cohen dies in Los Angeles at age of 82**