

Music maestro Tony Bennett turns 80

► **Aug 3, 1926:** Born **Anthony Dominick Benedetto**, in **Queens, New York**

► **1940s:** Studies music and painting at New York's **High School of Industrial Art**, but drops out at age 16 to help support his family

► **1942-46:** Sings while waiting tables in Italian restaurants in Queens, then with military bands during army service in **World War II**

► **1949:** Opens show for **Pearl Bailey** in Greenwich Village – spotted by **Bob Hope**, who invites him on tour and suggests he simplify name to **Tony Bennett**



Illustration: Bob Hoare

► **1950-62:** String of top hits includes **Stranger in Paradise**, and **I Left my Heart in San Francisco**

► **1964-79:** Career slumps due to rise of rock music – he hits bottom with cocaine overdose. Son **Danny** becomes his manager, fortunes gradually revive

► **1994:** Appears on **MTV Unplugged** – resulting album goes platinum and wins top **Grammy** for **Album of the Year**

► **2006:** Wins 12th Grammy, for **The Art Of Romance**. New CD of duets, featuring guests including **Barbra Streisand** and **Elton John**, to be released to mark 80th birthday