

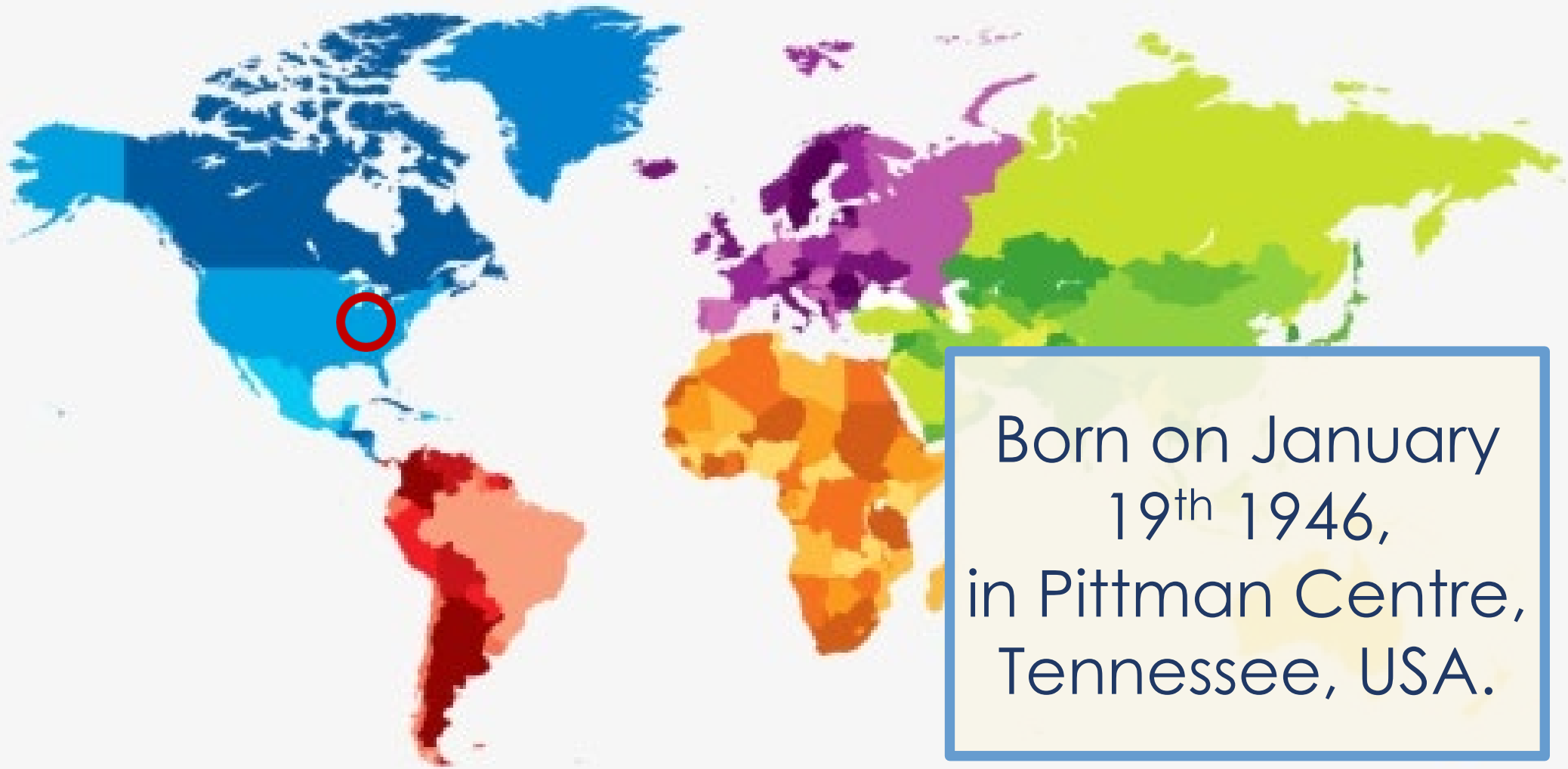


Dolly Parton

Composer of the Week



Dolly Parton
(b. January 1946)



Born on January
19th 1946,
in Pittman Centre,
Tennessee, USA.

Dolly Parton is an American songwriter, singer, actress, author, businesswoman and humanitarian.

Born in a poor part of Tennessee, Dolly was one of twelve children. Her father worked hard at several jobs in order to provide for his children and eventually owned a small tobacco farm.

Her mother's family were originally from Wales and her grandfather was a preacher.



Dolly's first solo performances were at church when she was only 6 years olds.

Her uncle bought her a guitar when she was eight and by the age of 10 she was singing professionally on the radio.

The day after she graduated from High School she moved to Nashville. Nashville is the centre of **Country Music** and Dolly is known as one of the best Country singers and composers of all time.

Country Music is based on blues and church music from the south of America. It is influenced by **Spirituals**, American **folk-music** and Cowboy Western music from New Mexico.

One of her first solo hits is called **Coat of Many Colours**.

The song tells of how Dolly's mother made her a coat out of rags given to the family. As she sewed, she told Dolly the biblical story of **Joseph and his Coat of Many Colours**.

Dolly, "*with patches on my britches and holes in both my shoes*", rushed to school, "*just to find the others laughing and making fun of me*" for wearing a coat that was made of rags.



This is the actual coat

A background illustration featuring a large, stylized tree trunk at the bottom. The canopy of the tree is composed of various musical notes, clefs, and instruments like a trumpet and a guitar, all in a soft, pastel color palette. The entire scene is framed by a light blue border.

Dolly is an accomplished business woman. Early in her career she started her own publishing company, so she could keep all the money her songs made.

"As soon as I could, I started my own publishing company, got my own record label. I think it's important, if you can, to keep all of your goods close to home where you can control them and know what's happening with them."

She has opened a Theme Park called Dollywood.



Dolly Parton has won many, many Country Music awards as well as Grammys, Emmys and two Oscar nominations.

Dolly has composed over 3,000 songs.



She is God-mother to Miley Cyrus.

She has 44 career Top 10 country albums, a record for any artist, and she has 110 career-charted singles over the past 40 years.

Dolly Parton is also a well-known actress and has starred in many films and TV series.

Her most famous film is called **9 to 5** for which she composed and sang the theme tune.



9 to 5 was Dolly's first film and her famous co-star, actress Jane Fonda said that when working with her:

"her spirit and goodness made everybody else come up a bit, and that the film was a little better because of [her]."

Did you know that the world's first ever cloned animal – **Dolly the Sheep** – was named after Dolly Parton?





Dolly Parton has given an amazing amount of money, anonymously, to charity.

Because her father could not read, helping children to love and read books is very important to her. She has set up her own charity called **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**. This began in 1995 in Tennessee, where Dolly was born.

The charity sends one book per month to all children from birth to the age of 5.

By the year 2000 the programme was available throughout the USA and today it has expanded to the UK, Canada, Australia and Ireland.

By now, the Library has posted out over 125 million books to children.

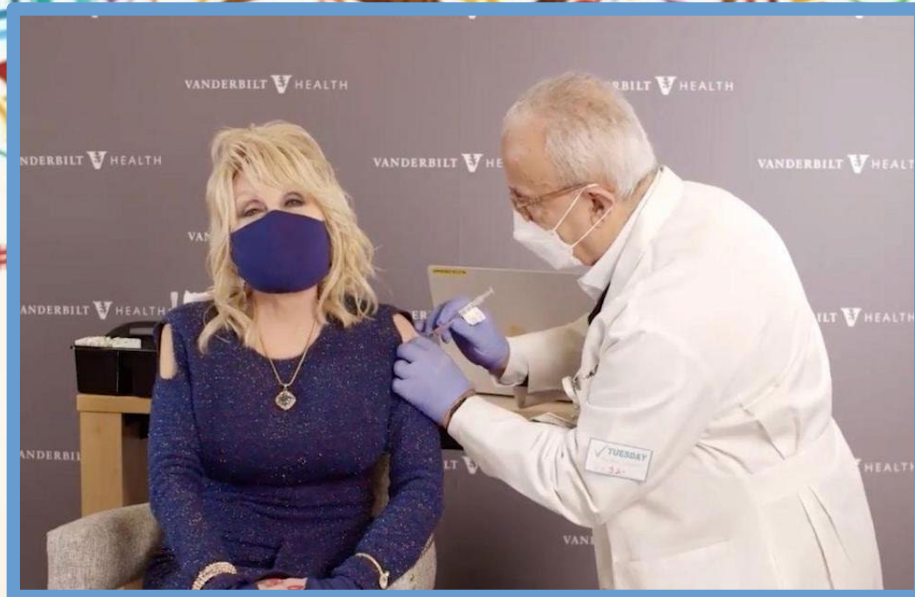
Dolly's aim is for it to reach 1 billion books during her lifetime.

Dolly has written a few of the books herself, one is called **The Coat of Many Colours**.



During the recent Covid-19 Pandemic, Dolly Parton gave over \$1,000,000 to fund research into a vaccine and it is claimed that this contributed greatly to the development of the Moderna vaccine, used all over the world.

She also used her fame to encourage others to be vaccinated.



Her most famous song is called ***I Will Always Love You***.

It has been recorded by many people but everyone remembers the version sung by Whitney Houston in a film called **The Bodyguard**.





*"You'll never do a whole
lot unless you're brave
enough to try."*

- Dolly Parton

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