

**NAME:** Georges Bizet

**BORN:** October 25 1838, Paris

**DIED:** 03 June 1875, just outside of Paris

Georges Bizet was actually born Alexandre Cesare Leopold Bizet. Like fellow famous composer Mozart, Georges Bizet was a child prodigy who was born into a musical family. His Dad was a musician, his Mum was a gifted pianist and his Aunt had been a teacher at the famous Conservatoire de Paris from the age of 13!

The Conservatoire de Paris is a university for musicians and dancers. He himself entered the Conservatoire de Paris from the age of 9 (the minimum age to be enrolled was 10). During his time at the Conservatoire he composed many symphonies, wrote some works for the soprano voice and rewrote music for the piano for leading composer of the time Charles Gounod (who wrote the opera Romeo and Juliet)

Unfortunately for Bizet he was not as popular as Mozart and he only began to become well known towards the end of his career. His operatic tunes are probably the most well-known of all the composers. His music features in many television commercials, television programs and movies including Sesame Street, The Aristocats and The Simpsons.

Bizet wrote the romantic and exotically inspired opera The Pearl Fishers. It tells the story of two best friends who are in love with the same woman. His next opera Carmen was supposed to be a comedy. Instead it was an exquisitely composed dramatic and tragic opera that told us the story of the fearless factory worker Carmen.

The audiences did not like Carmen when it was first performed and when Bizet died at the age of 36 of a heart attack he had no idea as to how popular his compositions would become.

**BIZET QUOTE:** *"Ah Music! What a beautiful art! But what a wretched profession!"*

**BIZET FUN FACT:** *One of his opera's is called The Fair Maid of Perth. It is not about the city of Perth in Western Australian but Perth in Scotland. Still it's fun to know that an opera features the name of our capital city.*



## BOLD BIZET