Giachino Rossini  
(jaw-ahk-KEE-naw roh-SEE-nee)

- He was born in Pesaro, Italy to musician parents. His father was a trumpeter and his mother was a singer.

- Rossini began to compose by the age of 12 and went to music school in Bologna.

- His first opera was performed in Venice when he was 18 years old.

- At 23, he was writing operas and managing theatres in Naples. He stayed for 7 years, composed 19 operas and gained a lot of popularity in this time.

- He then embarked on a European tour and he was warmly received everywhere. He settled in Paris 2 years later and took the position of music director at Théâtre Italien.

- Rossini retired from opera after writing, 'Guillaume Tell' at age 37. He spent the rest of his life writing sacred music and delectable miniatures for both piano and voice.

- Rossini composed 61 operas, 18 cantatas, 24 instrumental pieces, 10 sacred works, 6 chamber pieces, 38 vocal pieces, and Péchés de vieillesse, a collection of 150 vocal, chamber and solo piano pieces.

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