



Gioachino Rossini, Composer

Born: February 29, 1792

Died: November 13, 1868

Nationality: Italian

**Famous Works: Operas “*William Tell*,”
“*The Barber of Seville*” and many other operas, sacred and chamber music**

Gioachino Rossini was born in Pesaro, a town on the coast of Italy. His father played the horn in a local band and inspected slaughterhouses to earn extra money for his family. His mother was a singer. Rossini’s mother and father began to teach him music at a very early age. By age six, Rossini was playing the triangle in a local band, along with his father.

Rossini’s first opera was written at the age of eighteen. Between 1815 and 1823, Rosinni produced 20 operas. He married the singer Isabella Colbran in 1822. At the age of 32, Rossini was able to go into semi-retirement with essentially financial independence.

The production of *William Tell* brought his career as a writer of opera to a close. Though it is an excellent opera, it is rarely heard uncut today, as the original score runs more than four hours in length. The overture is one of the most famous and frequently recorded works in classical music.

Rossini died at his country house at Passy, France on Friday, Nov. 13, 1868 and was buried in Pere Lachaise Cemetery, Paris, France. In 1887, his remains were moved to the Basilica di Santa Croce di Firenze, in Florence, Italy, where they now rest.

