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## TONY BENNETT (b. 1926)

**Birth Name:** Anthony Dominick Benedetto  
**Place of Birth:** Astoria, Queens (New York City)

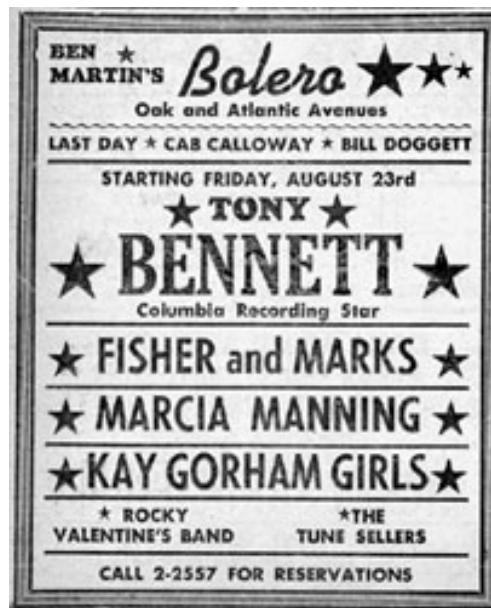


**Career Highlights:** The son of a grocer who emigrated from Italy in 1906, Tony Bennett dropped out of school at the age of 16 to help support his family. After fighting in World War II, he studied voice under the GI Bill, which offered free tuition to servicemen returning from the war. His first hit, “Because of You,” stayed at No. 1 on the Pop charts for ten weeks in 1951. Bennett recorded his most famous song, “I Left My Heart in San Francisco,” in 1962. His career floundered in the 1960s and 1970s, as Rock and Roll songs began to dominate the charts, but numerous television appearances in the 1990s – particularly on the music video channel MTV – exposed him to a new generation of fans, and leading to a new string of successful albums. Bennett has continued to perform well into his eighties.

**Recording:** “Because of You” (1951)

**Questions to consider:**

- What kind of image does Bennett present in the picture above and on the 1957 album cover below?
- How would you describe Bennett's singing voice? To which audiences do you think his songs would have the greatest appeal?
- How did serving in World War II influence Bennett's career?
- Why do you think Bennett might have changed his name when he began recording?
- Why do you think Bennett was able to attract young listeners in the 1990s? What about his style might they have found appealing?



Concert poster, 1950s



Album cover, 1957