Ella Fitzgerald was an American jazz singer. She was born in Newport News, Virginia in 1917. When she was 15, she lost her mother in a car accident so she moved to Harlem to live with her aunt. Ella was not happy in 1933, so she moved/started to live in an orphanage away from her aunt. Ella did not stay at the orphanage for long, in 1934 she left the orphanage and started singing on the streets to survive. Later, she took part in a singing competition and she won the first-place prize. In 1936, Ella joined Chick Webb’s orchestra and became the lead singer. At that time, she began her professional career. Then, in 1958, she received her first Grammy Award and made history as an African-American woman. During the 1960’s, she traveled all over the US and gave concerts. Unfortunately, she started to experience serious health problems in 1995. Then, in 1996 she died at her home in Beverly Hills, California.