

# Iconic Female Country Singer

By: Chloe Lohr

Most people know Dolly Parton as a singer. They don't know much about her background or what she does other than sing. Parton is a thoughtful person; she is a social butterfly with a warm personality.

Parton was born on January 19, 1946, in Tennessee. Parton grew up very poor; money was always tight. Parton is one of twelve children. At a young age, her mother would sing to her. Music and singing was in the family and she would learn songs and sing them at church as a little girl. She got her first guitar from her uncle at the age of eight. Parton would write her own tunes and play them. At the age of 10, she started to perform professionally and appear on local tv and the radio in the East Tennessee area.

In high school, she decided that her career would be in the music field. After high school, she moved to Nashville and that's where her singing career took off. Around the time of her career starting, she partnered with Porter Wagoner on the *Porter Wagoner* show. After being on the show, they became a popular duo that people really liked. Together they recorded many country songs. Parton was very successful because ever since her early career, she protected the publishing rights to her songs, so she earned millions in royalties.

Parton has always wanted a wig and hair pieces. She wanted a wig because her hair was fine and flat, and she liked the look of big hair. During her career, wigs suddenly became one of her trademarks and now she owns hundreds of wigs and hair pieces. Wigs that she doesn't use or that are worn out, she donates them to her museum in Tennessee. Parton is known for her wigs and always having big flashy hair that she even created a dog clothing line with dog wigs.

Parton's first record "Puppy Love" is what inspired her to create a doggy line with wigs, clothes, toys, and more.

Most people don't know, but Parton created Dollywood. Dollywood is an amusement park with roller coasters, award-winning food, and great southern hospitality. Parton has never ridden any of the rides in the park, but the main reason she created Dollywood is because she wanted to give jobs in the area. The area that Parton was raised in was poor so after her fame she gave jobs to her childhood town by creating the amusement park.

Parton has worked with many organizations to support different causes over the years. Parton had a goal to improve literacy among children so she created *Dolly's Imagination Library* is a program that donates books to children annually. Most of her donations remain anonymous. Parton has donated over 172 million books. Parton also donates to hospitals and \$15,000 scholarships to high school students who can successfully tell their plan and a dream they wish to pursue; Parton also donates school supplies to local schools.

Parton is a very successful lady that started small and became big and now donates to different causes and even created an amusement park. Parton is an amazing woman that should be known for more than just her big hair and music.

Links: <https://www.biography.com/musician/dolly-parton>

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/56324/12-fun-facts-about-dollywood>