

Ariana Grande

Early Life

Ariana Grande-Butera was born to parent Joan Grande and Edward Butera in Boca Raton, Florida, on the 26th June 1993. Joan held the position of Chief Executive Officer at a successful telephone and alarm systems company, whilst Edward owned a graphic design firm in Boca Raton. Ariana's parents, alongside her older brother Frankie, had relocated from New York to Florida shortly before her birth. Ariana's name was inspired by Princess Oriana – a character from the film *Felix the Cat: The Movie*, which had been released a few years before her birth.

As a child, Ariana had a passion for performance. When she wasn't attending the prestigious Pine Crest and North Broward Preparatory Schools – private day and boarding schools - Ariana spent her time at the Fort Lauderdale Children's Theatre. She played the title character Annie in her first ever performance and went on to star in the shows *The Wizard of Oz* and *Beauty and the Beast*.



Rise to Fame

Ariana embarked on her career as a professional entertainer at an early age. At 8 years old, Ariana was already performing in the karaoke lounges aboard cruise ships and with popular orchestras across the state of Florida. She also sang on multiple occasions at the jazz club Birdland in New York City, before making her first national television appearance singing the USA's national anthem, *The Star-Spangled Banner*, at a Florida Panthers ice hockey match.

In 2008, at the tender age of 13, Ariana first appeared on Broadway in the supporting role of cheerleader Charlotte in the musical *13*. Upon joining the cast, Ariana stopped attending North Broward Preparatory School but continued to be sent work from school to complete with her tutors.

In a continuation to her acting career, Ariana secured the role of Cat Valentine in the popular Nickelodeon show *Victorious* in 2009. The show was an overnight success, racking up almost 6 million viewers, and Ariana achieved global fame overnight. Although she loved acting and her role on the show, Ariana's determination to become a professional musician never wavered. She flew across the country to Los Angeles to meet with her managers and explained her plans to make her own R&B album.

Musical Success

Ariana released her first studio album, *Yours Truly*, to the global market on 30th August 2013 after over three years of work. She was credited as a songwriter on numerous album tracks. The album was an instant success, selling 138,000 copies in its first week and going straight to number one on the Billboard 200 albums chart in the USA. *Yours Truly* debuted at the top of the charts internationally – achieving a top 10 position in countries such as the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands and Australia. By April 2014, *Yours Truly* had sold over half a million copies in the US alone and became Ariana's first platinum album.

Ariana immediately commenced work on her second studio album, *My Everything*. When it was released on 25th August 2014, it sold 169,000 copies in its first week and rocketed to number one, just as *Yours Truly* had the year before. In early 2015, Ariana embarked on a series of shows in America, Europe and Asia as part of *The Honeymoon Tour*, with many extra dates being added mid-way through the run due to the show's popularity and success.

Ariana commenced the production of her third studio album, originally entitled *Moonlight*, in 2015. However, by the album's release on 20th May 2016, it had been renamed to *Dangerous Woman* and it entered the charts at number two. Ariana embarked on the accompanying *Dangerous Woman Tour* in February 2017 – performing across America, Europe, Asia and Oceania and selling over 875,000 tickets.



Charitable Contributions

Ariana's work helping others began at an early age. At the age of 10, Ariana co-founded the children's singing group *Kids Who Care*. The group performed at charitable events and raised over \$500,000 for good causes in 2007 alone. She has continued to use her fame to promote and raise funds for charitable causes close to her heart. She created a range of cosmetics, donating 100% of the proceeds to charity.

Unfortunately, during the Manchester date of her *Dangerous Woman Tour*, an explosion occurred which took the lives of 22 fans and left many others injured. Ariana immediately organised a benefit concert, named *One Love Manchester*, which was televised worldwide on 4th June 2017. She performed at the concert alongside other popular musicians, such as Justin Bieber and Katy Perry, and over £15 million was raised to help the victims and their families.

Questions

1. 'Ariana embarked on her career as a professional entertainer.' What does **embarked** mean? Tick one.

- gave up on
 made plans about
 was shouted at
 began

2. Why was Ariana given her name? Tick one.

- She was named after a family pet.
 She was named after a character from a film.
 Her brother Frankie chose her name.
 Her parents chose the name from a book.

3. Ariana commenced the production of her third studio album.' What do you think the word commenced means?

4. Find and copy the names of two celebrities who performed with Ariana at the One Love Manchester concert.

- _____
- _____

5. Find and copy a phrase from the text which shows that Ariana performed at Birdland more than once.

6. Explain why the author has organised this text with sub-headings.

7. Summarise what you have read in paragraphs 3-5 in one sentence.

8. Why might Ariana have begun production on My Everything so soon after releasing Yours Truly?

9. Explain why Ariana organised the One Love Manchester concert.

10. Do you think that Ariana will change careers in the future? Give evidence to support your answer.
