

# Dido, The Pop Diva.

Many singers get to the top in Britain, and then try for success in America. Not Dido ! This English singer started her career in America and sold one million albums in 18 months. In 2001, *No Angel* was the best-selling album in Britain !

5 Dido was an **unusual** child with an unusual family : her mother was a French poet, and her father an Irish book **publisher**. Dido's mother said 'no' to holidays, visits from friends and TV.

Dido started playing the **recorder** when she was five. She then went to the Guildhall School of Music to learn the piano and violin. But at 17, she decided to stop playing. 'I wasn't good enough to be a classical pianist. And I didn't want to be a professional recorder player', she says.

10 But Dido couldn't live without music, so she started singing. She had always been influenced by her brother's taste in music : 'My brother Rollo is older than me. I used to **borrow** his CDs !' she says. When Rollo returned from Australia where he had been working, he formed the group *Faithless*. 'I used to go to his recording studio. That's how I got to sing on their first album, *Reverence*, says Dido.

15 Dido was lucky. One of the managers of the American company *Arista Records* heard her voice. He decided to give her a record contract. Her first album, *No Angel*, was not an immediate success. But then Eminem used a sample from 'Thank You' in his single 'Stan'. Her album sales went from 3,000 a week to 50,000 !

Now Dido is ready for the rest of the world. She is still very close to her brother, and they write many songs together. 'We make a perfect team', she says.

*Adapted from : I Love English, March 2002*

## Vocabulaire :

**Unusual** : peu ordinaire

**A publisher** : un éditeur

**Recorder** : flûte à bec

**To borrow** : emprunter

**L'utilisation du dictionnaire bilingue ou d'un traducteur électronique n'est pas autorisée.**

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## Compréhension

**1 - Répondez en anglais aux questions suivantes en rédigeant des phrases complètes : 5 points**

a) When did 'No Angel' become a success ?

.....  
.....

b) What did Dido do at age 5 ?

.....

c) What happened when she was seventeen years old ?

.....

d) What was Rollo doing in Australia ?

.....

e) Who gave Dido her first contract ?

.....  
.....

**2 - Dites si les affirmations suivantes sont vraies (V) ou fausses (F), puis justifiez vos réponses en citant le texte (toute réponse non justifiée sera considérée comme nulle).**

*4 points*

V    F

a) Dido is an American musician.

.....

b) She has got a younger brother.

.....

c) Her first album was 'Reverence'.

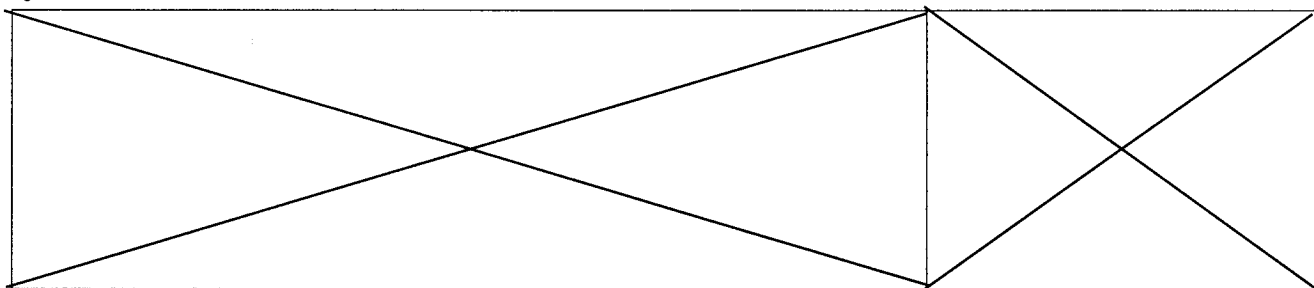
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d) Dido doesn't like working with her brother.

.....

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**3 - Traduction : traduisez le passage suivant en français :**

3 points

“ I wasn’t good enough to be a classical pianist. And I didn’t want to be a professional recorder player”, she says.

.....  
.....  
.....

**Compétence linguistique**

**4 - Complétez chacune des phrases suivantes avec une des prépositions ci-dessous :  
to – at – from – in - with.**

3 points

Dido is not American, she comes ..... Great Britain.

When she was young, she went .....the Guildhall School of music.

She recorded her album ‘No Angel’ ..... 2000.

**Expression écrite**

**5 - Rédigez en anglais 8 questions qui ont permis au journaliste d’obtenir quelques-uns des renseignements suivants :**

5 points

- a) Full name : Dido Florian Cloud de Bouneville Armstrong
- b) Place of birth : London, England
- c) Date of birth : 25 December 1972
- d) Jobs : worked for a publisher and in restaurants
- e) Studies : studied law at night school
- f) Father’s nationality : Irish - Mother’s nationality : French
- g) Brothers or sisters : one brother : Rollo
- h) Albums sold in America : 1 million

- a) .....
- b) .....
- c) .....
- d) .....
- e) .....
- f) .....
- g) .....
- h) .....

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