



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

A Musical Genius

WORDS

archbishop = the highest priest of a country

behave = act

care about = if you think that something is important

close = if you like somebody very much

compose = to write music

composer = someone who writes music

conduct = to stand in front of musicians or singers and direct them

create = make

deal with = to be able to work with or handle something

guide = to lead

kidney failure = one of the two organs in your back that separates waste products from your blood and makes urine. If one of these organs does not work any more we call it a failure.

language = the system of communication that a country has

local = a place near your home or in your neighbourhood

loving = to show you love somebody

harpsichord = an instrument like a small piano. It was used up to the 18th century.

noblemen = a member of the highest class, usually with a title

perform = to play music in front of people

public performance = to play in front of people

raise money = to earn money so that you can live

society = people in general

stages = phase, part of

symphony = a longer piece of music, usually in 4 parts and played by an orchestra

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was an Austria **composer** - one of the greatest in music history. Even though he died before his 36th birthday, Mozart **created** more than 600 works.

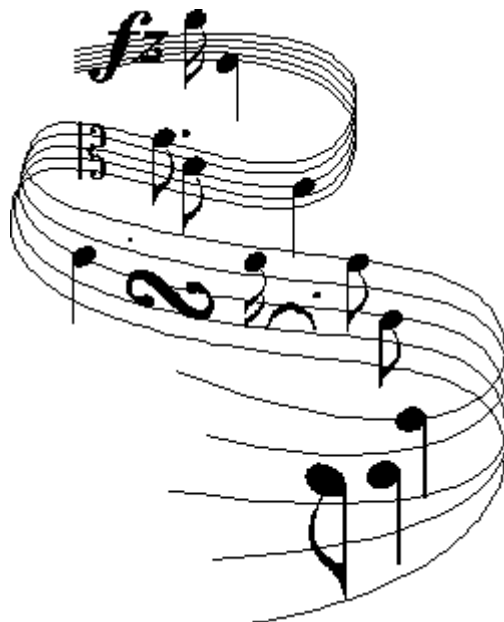
He was born on January 27, 1756 in Salzburg. His father, Leopold was a **composer**, violin teacher and the leader of a **local** orchestra.

Young Wolfgang started playing the **harpsichord** at the age of three. He **composed** his own piano pieces at five, his first **symphonies** when he reached nine and whole operas at the age of 12. Wolfgang never went to school. His father taught him **languages**, geography and history, maths and, of course, music.

Mozart came from a **loving** family. He loved to play duets with his older sister and he was very **close** to his mother. His father **guided** him through all **stages** in his life, taught him how to **deal with** money and people, and how to **behave** in **society**.

Leopold took his son with him on many concert tours through Europe, where he **performed** before kings, queens and **noblemen** of other countries. He also gave **public performances** and met many other musicians.

When he came back to Salzburg, Mozart started working for the **archbishop**. However, he didn't really become happy in Salzburg. He wasn't paid very much and the archbishops didn't **care** very much about music.



In 1781 Mozart left Salzburg and went to Vienna, a town where music was very important. Here he gave piano lessons and **conducted** his own works. He got jobs from all kinds of people, but he didn't become rich. A year before coming to Vienna Mozart married Constanze Weber.

Although he worked very hard, Wolfgang couldn't **raise** enough **money** to live with his family. His health started getting poorer and on December 5, 1791 he died, probably of **kidney failure**.



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Mozart's music

Mozart was a musical **genius**. Most of his works became well-known after his death and today, people of all age groups **enjoy** Mozart's light and rhythmic style. The composer wrote just about every kind of music that was **popular** in his time. He wrote over 40 symphonies. Some of them were only **overtures** for operas and lasted only a few minutes, but others are works that **consist** of 4 **movements** and last for half an hour. His last and most famous symphony, Nr. 41, is **nicknamed** the Jupiter.

Many of his 22 operas have become famous all over the world. The *Marriage of Figaro* (1786) and *Don Giovanni* (1787) are operas that Mozart **composed** with Italian words. The *Magic Flute* is probably his best-known German opera.

Wolfgang also created music that was played at **masses** in church—mostly in Salzburg. The main musical instrument of these **compositions** is the organ. His best known piece of work is the Requiem (Mass for the Dead) which he began in 1791 but couldn't finish before his death.

Mozart also composed lighter pieces of music called serenades, which were played at outdoor concerts. One of the most famous is "A Little Night Music".

Throughout his life, Mozart **concentrated** on music for one or two instruments. He was **fond of** writing **string quartets** for two violins, a **viola** and a cello. He also composed sonatas for solo instruments, like the piano, violin and the **flute**.

Mozart's style

Most of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's works are **cheerful** and full of life. He was a person with a **sense of humour** and he liked to laugh a lot and joke around. Apart from lighter music, Mozart produced **serious** works that can be found in his late concertos and symphonies.

After his death a German music lover, Ludwig Köchel, collected and numbered all of Mozart's works. This catalogue is known as the Köchelverzeichnis.



WORDS

cheerful = happy

compose = to write music

compositions = works

concentrate = focus on, think very much about

consist of = to be made up of

flute = a musical instrument like a thin pipe. You hold it across your lips, blow air into it and press buttons to make a sound.

fond of = to like a lot

enjoy = like

genius = a person who is very, very intelligent or can do something much better than others

mass = a ceremony in church

movement = one part of a longer piece of music. A symphony usually has 4 movements

nickname = a name that is given to something

overture = a short piece of music that comes before a longer piece

popular = if lots of people like something

sense of humour = to understand things that are funny

serious = music that is not so cheerful and light

string quartets = 4 people who play musical instruments with strings

viola = a wooden musical instrument that you play like a violin. It is larger and has a lower sound