

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

BORN 1756, Salzburg, Austria. **DIED** 1791, Vienna, Austria.



HIGHLIGHTS

1. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria, on January 27, 1756.
2. Mozart's piano talent, like most of his other talents, appeared at a phenomenally early age. By the time he was 5, it was apparent to all that he was a child of extraordinary destiny. Mozart's father taught him to play the harpsichord when he was 4, and he would later learn the organ and violin. By age 5, he was already composing minuets, by 9 he was composing symphonies, and by 13 he was writing concertos and sonatas.
3. Mozart wrote more quickly than any other composer and worked on a very regimental schedule.
4. Mozart had a passion for dancing, parties, the theater, wine, food, and an insatiable appetite for sex.

BACKGROUND & TIMES

1. Mozart's father, Leopold Mozart, was a concertmaster of the court in Salzburg, a successful composer and violinist, and the author of a famous treatise on violin playing. Leopold nurtured his son's talents and had an enormous influence on his son's life and career.

MAJOR WORKS

SYMPHONIES

No. 41 in C (Jupiter Symphony); No. 35 in D; No. 36 in C; No. 38 in D; No. 40 in G Minor.

OTHER ORCHESTRAL MUSIC

Piano Concerto No. 21 in C (Elvira Madigan Concerto); Serenade for Strings in G (Eine

2. Mozart spent so much time on tour that he spent an estimated 4 of his 35 years on a stage coach.
3. On a trip to London, Mozart was befriended by composer Johann Christian Bach, the youngest son of the famous composer Johann Sebastian Bach. Under his influence, Mozart composed his first symphonies.
4. Joseph Haydn and Mozart were great friends, with Haydn all but worshipping Mozart and his works.

INNOVATIONS IN STYLE

1. Mozart was exceptionally versatile, writing in every musical genre of his time, including opera, symphony, concerto, and sonata.
2. Mozart's *The Magic Flute* is particularly admired for the serious ideas that lie below its fairy-tale surface. Some critics say it's the most perfect opera ever written.
3. In many of Mozart's works there is an underlying current of seriousness, and yet with most of his works there is a feeling of sheer entertainment, with great public appeal.
4. Mozart could compose entirely in his mind, and remember every detail. He would only later write the work

down on paper.

5. Although works like *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Don Giovanni* were scorned by the aristocracy for indecency, they were well loved by the general public.

UNIQUE INFLUENCE

1. Mozart was the supreme musical genius of the Classical period, and a naturalist whose music was directed not at the intellect but at the heart.
2. He did more than any other composer to make the piano the popular instrument it is today.
3. Mozart perfected the beautiful forms of symphony, opera, string quartet, and concerto that made up the Classical period.
4. Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *The Magic Flute* are considered some of his greatest works and place him with Wagner and Verdi as the *holy trinity* of opera composers.
5. In Mozart's last five years of life he composed masterpieces like *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, *The Jupiter*, *Così Fan Tutte*, *The Magic Flute*, and *Requiem*.

Kleine Nachtmusik); Piano Concerto No. 20 in D Minor; Violin Concerto No. 5 in A.

CHAMBER MUSIC

Quintet in A for Clarinet and Strings; Quintet in E-flat for Horn and Strings; Quintet in E-flat for Piano and Winds; String Quartet No. 21 in D.

MASSSES

Requiem Mass in D Minor; Missa Brevis.

OPERA

The Marriage of Figaro; Don Giovanni; The Magic Flute; La Clemenza di Tito Idomesto.