

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is probably one of the **best composers** ever born. But this is not why I decided to speak about him. I decided to speak about Mozart, because I like his music and because I admire him as a person.

What do you think, how many works did he write in 35 years of his life???

He left nearly 1000 musical works, including **50 symphonies, 27 piano concerts** and **seven operas**, which are among the best masterpieces of all times.

He was born in **Salzburg**, Austria, on **January 27, 1756**. He was baptised as **JOHANNES CHRYSOSTOMUS WOLFGANGUS THEOPHILUS MOZART**. His father was a musician, for this reason Mozart first met music already in the cradle. He was extraordinarily gifted for music. Actually he was considered a **Child genius**. In the **age of six** he was able to perform **on piano, violin** and **organ**. He had a remarkable talent for **sight-reading** and **improvisation**. When most children learned how to write and read he already wrote **five short piano pieces**, which have been still frequently performed.

In **1762**, when Wolfgang was 7 his father took him on the **first of many successful concert tours** through the courts of Europe. During this period Mozart composed several **sonatas, a symphony** and many other works. In **1769**, when he was only 13, Mozart was appointed as a **concertmaster by the archbishop of Salzburg**. In the same year he composed his **first German operetta, Bastien und Bastienne**. At the age of 14 he was commissioned to write a serious opera, **Mithridates, King of Pontus**, which completely established his already phenomenal reputation.

The Mozart family **returned to Salzburg in 1771**. The **archbishop**, who supported young Mozart, had **died** while the Mozarts were touring Italy. His **successor** didn't care much for music. Staying in Salzburg Mozart had a **lot of time** so his musical output was **enormous**. However he lived in **poverty** and for this reason he left with his mother for Munich in **1777**.

The courts of Europe **ignored the 21years old composer**, when he was searching for a better paid job. Searching for work he came to **Mannheim**, the musical centre of Europe in that time. There he fell in love with **Aloysia Weber**. But the romance was short, because Mozart soon left Mannheim and travelled with his parents and Aloysia to Paris, where his **mother died** and Aloysia left him. But this was not the only trouble. He was deeply hurt also by the ignorance of the Paris aristocrats, who didn't care for his work. All this made his life in Paris one of the most difficult periods in his life. For this reason he returned to Salzburg.

Back home in Salzburg Mozart composed **two masses** and a number of **sonatas, symphonies, and concerts**. These works are the beginning of his

mature works. They **reveal** for the first time his **distinctive style**. He wrote also the opera **Idomeneo, King of Crete**, which was a great success. It prompted the archbishop of Salzburg to invite Mozart to work in his palace in Vienna. Also in Vienna Mozart was not happy. A series of **intrigues** soon forced Mozart to leave archbishop.

He stayed in **Vienna** hoping to **make his living by teaching**. During this period Mozart composed a **singspiel**, which is a type of German operetta with parts of spoken dialogue. The name of the operetta was **Abduction from the Seraglio** and it was requested by the **Emperor Joseph II** in **1782**. In the same year Mozart married **Constanze Weber**, Aloysia's younger sister. But again, their common life was harassed by **poverty** and **illness**.

In spite of his misery Mozart composed some of the **best works** in the **last five years** of his life. They are: **The Marriage of Figaro, Don Giovanni, All Women Do So, The Clemency of Titus** and perhaps his best work **The Magic Flute**.

When Mozart was working on **The Magic Flute** in 1791, he got a mysterious request to write a **requiem mass**. This work was left **uncompleted** at his death. Some people believe that he was trying to write the requiem mass for his own funeral. He **died** of **typhoid fever** in Vienna on **December 5, 1791**. His burial was attended only by a couple of his personal friends. The place of his **grave** is **unmarked**.

After his death there were rumours that he was murdered by the Italian composer **Antonio Salieri**, who was jealous of his genius. However this theory is not **supported** by the majority of the historians.

Mozart had an **unsuccessful career** and **died young**. But he is one of the greatest **geniuses** of **Western civilisation**. His **instrumental works** include **symphonies, divertimentos, sonatas, chamber music** and **concerts**. He wrote also **vocal works** including **church music** and **operas**.

His **music is a combination** of **two styles**, Italian and German. Due to this combination his music is light and clear and at the same time technically perfect. It influenced many other composers for instance: Beethoven. Mozart's music survived through the centuries. At the beginning of the 21st century it seems equally fresh and beautiful as it was two hundred years ago, when it was written.