

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is probably one of the best composers ever born. 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. 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. 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. 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 moved with his mother to Munich in 1777.

The courts of Europe ignored the 21 years 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.

In Salzburg Mozart composed two masses and a number of sonatas, symphonies, and concerts. These works are the beginning of his mature works. He wrote also the opera Idomeneo, King of Crete, which was a great success. And that opera prompted the archbishop of Salzburg to invite Mozart to work in his palace in Vienna. But in Vienna Mozart was not happy. A series of intrigues soon forced Mozart to leave **archbishopric**. 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 full of 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.

He died of **typhoid** [táifoid] **fever** (trebušni tifus) in Vienna on December 5, 1791. The place of his grave is unmarked.

After his death there were rumours [rú:m*] (govorica) 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.