

# Joseph Haydn

“It is the melody which is the charm of music, and it is that which is most difficult to produce. The invention of a fine melody is a work of genius.”

Joseph Haydn, named Franz Joseph Haydn in full, was an Austrian composer born in 1732 and one of Europe's most influential composers in the mid-to-late 18th century.

Haydn's extraordinary musical talents were recognised at a young age. At age six, he was sent to a relative in Hainburg, where he received his first musical education. Between 1739 and 1740, young Haydn was recruited to serve as choirboy and study at the Choir School of St Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. After leaving, Haydn worked as a freelance performer, educator, and composer. During this time he was exposed to various musicians and aristocrats, which allowed him to perform and further develop his music.

In 1761, his success positioned him as a composer to the Esterházy, a family of Hungarian nobility for whom he regularly composed and performed. This position supported him financially, however it isolated him from other musicians, forcing him, as he said, “to become original”. Despite this, his music circulated widely, making him one of Europe's most popular musicians.

Haydn's influence and contribution to music was profound. He was a key figure in the development of the string quartet, and the symphony, and ranks among the main representatives of music's Classical period. Haydn composed a large and impressive body of work that, in addition to symphonies, included concertos, piano trios, operas and other works that inspired many 19th century composers and generations of musicians to follow.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Austrian composer Mozart dedicated several string quartets to his teacher and companion Joseph Haydn.

## FUN FACT

Haydn wrote more than a hundred symphonies. One of his most famous is *Symphony No. 103*, also known as the, “Drum Roll”.

## MUSICAL TERM

**String Quartet:** A musical ensemble consisting of two violin players, a viola player and a cellist.

