

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

“The music is not in the notes, but in the silence between.”

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was an Austrian composer, pianist, and violinist born in 1756 in Salzburg, Austria. Mozart was a child prodigy who was composing music from the age of five and performing for royalty throughout Europe.

At three years old Mozart had already picked up the basics of piano by watching his sister practice. In addition to this, his father, who was a keen musician, teacher, and composer, trained him to play other instruments such as the violin, organ and clavier. By the time Mozart was seven years old he was touring Europe with his musical family and performing at the imperial courts of Vienna, Prague, Munich, Paris, and London.

During a trip to Rome at age 14, Mozart heard *Gregorio Allegri's Miserere* for the first time; a **choral composition** that had never been published publicly and was exclusively performed during Easter celebrations at the Vatican. Mozart was so moved by the piece that when he returned to his lodgings he wrote the entire composition, note for note, from memory; thus creating the first unauthorised copy of the guarded music.

During his lifetime, Mozart composed over 600 works, many of which are some of the most iconic music ever written. His operas such as *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Don Giovanni* belong to the core repertoire of opera houses worldwide.

His serenade *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, and his last composition, *Requiem in D minor*, written just before his death in 1791, are among the most universally celebrated classical works. Mozart has had, and continues to have, a significant impact on the development of music since the 18th century. He is a fine symbol of the Viennese Classical Period and rates among the greatest composers of all time.



DID YOU KNOW?

Mozart was one of Albert Einstein's favourite composers.

FUN FACT

On 27 January 2006 the bells of more than 100 churches in Salzburg rang for seven minutes at the exact moment of Mozart's birth in honour of his 250th birthday.

MUSICAL TERM

Choral Composition: A composition for a choir with music based on a religious script.

