

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Born in Salzburg, Austria
in 1756

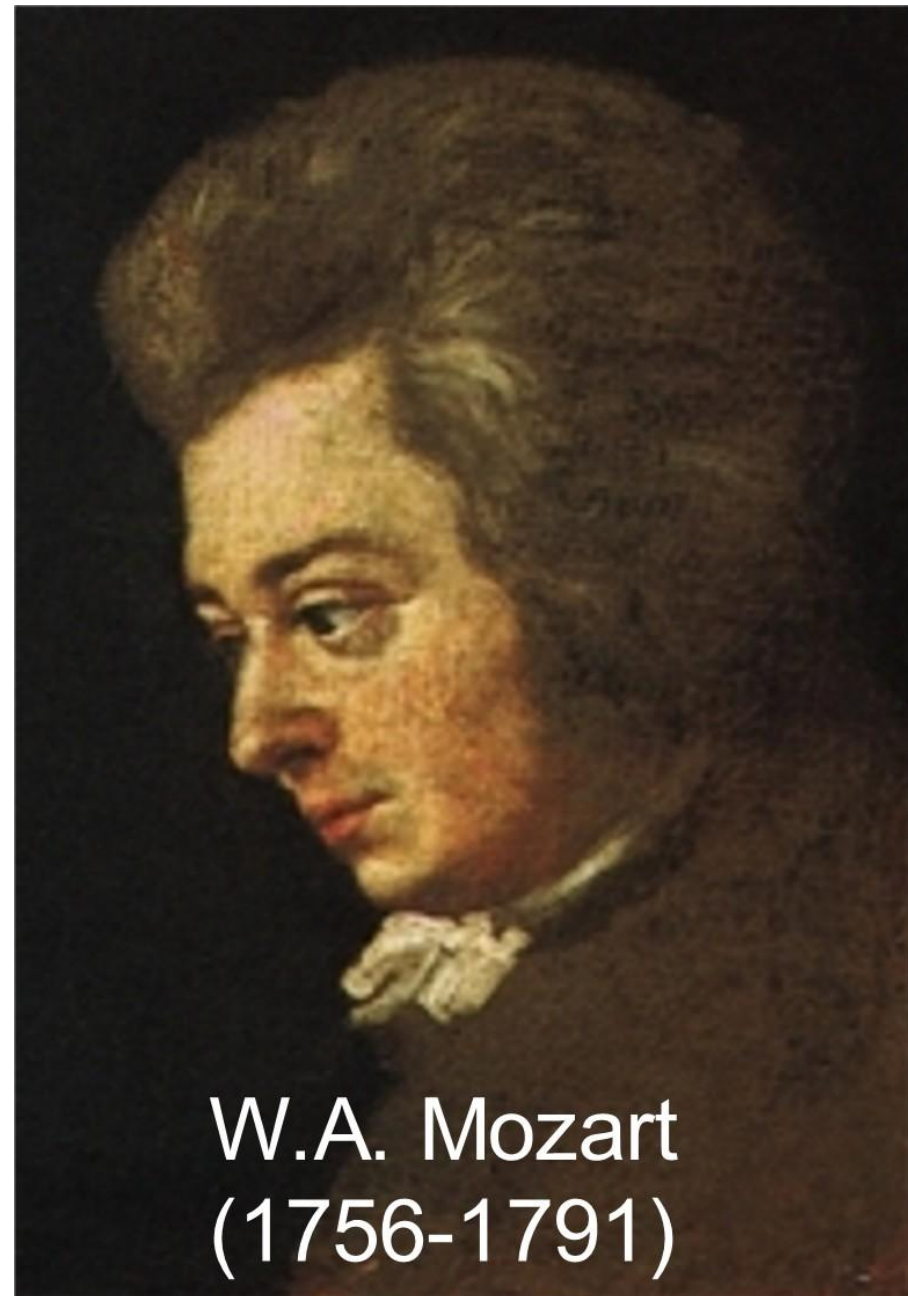
Died in Prague, Bohemia
(now the Czech Republic)
in 1791

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

was a highly prolific and influential composer of the Classical era in music history. He composed over 600 works, many of which are acknowledged as pinnacles in the respective genres of **symphonies, concertos, operas, solo piano works, chamber music,** and **choral music.**

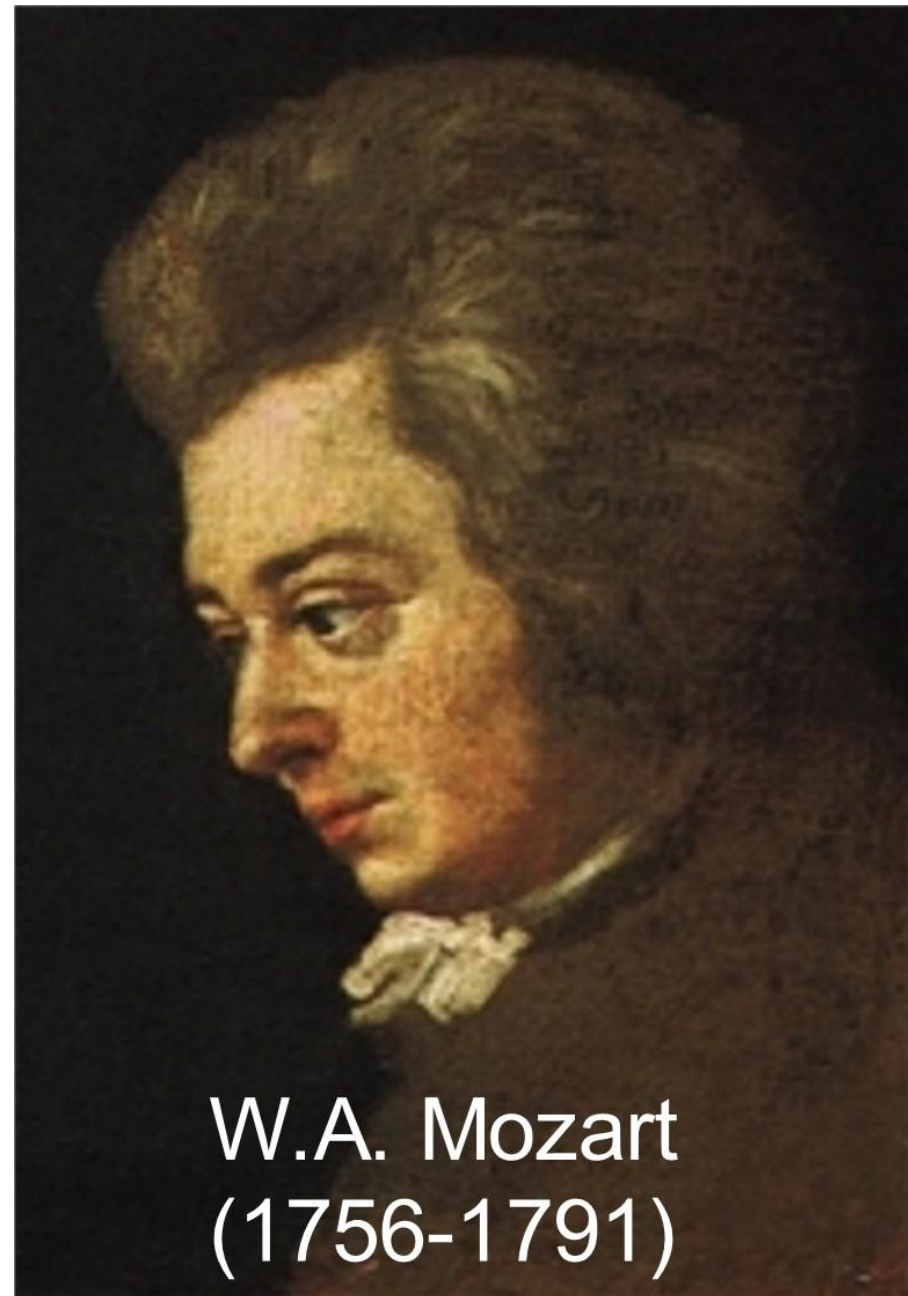


Mozart is among the
most enduringly
popular of all classical
composers and is the
most recorded
composer in history.



W.A. Mozart
(1756-1791)

Mozart's music is so popular that it has been heard in more than **700 films** as diverse as **The Godfather, The Shawshank Redemption, Alien, The King's Speech** and **Batman Begins.**



W.A. Mozart
(1756-1791)

Mozart showed prodigious ability from his earliest childhood in Salzburg. A child prodigy on both piano and violin, he composed from the age of five and performed as a child for European royalty. At 17, he was engaged as a court musician in Salzburg, but grew restless and traveled in search of a better position, always composing abundantly.



A painting of young
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

While visiting Vienna in 1781, he was dismissed from his Salzburg position. He chose to stay in the capital, where he achieved fame but little financial security.

During his final years in Vienna, Mozart composed many of his best-known symphonies, concertos, and operas, and portions of his musical setting of the **Requiem Mass**, which was left unfinished at the time of his death.



A painting depicting Mozart on his deathbed

Even though Mozart did not live to finish his last composition, his **Requiem Mass**, it is considered to be one of the greatest works of the choral repertoire and is among the **most frequently performed choral works** throughout the world.



A painting depicting Mozart
on his deathbed

The circumstances of Mozart's early death have been much mythologized with various theories that he was poisoned or even murdered.

The reality is that he was buried in a pauper's mass grave with no marker in a village just outside of Vienna, Austria.

He was survived by his wife Constanze and two sons.



A painting depicting Mozart on his deathbed

At the time of his death,
Mozart was two months short
of his **36th birthday**.

He had composed
41 Symphonies,
20 Operas,
27 Piano Concertos,
6 Violin Concertos,
10 Wind Concertos,
109 Chamber Music Works,
27 Solo Piano Works,
31 Songs, 27 Masses
and other liturgical works
and **hundreds of other**
musical works.



A painting depicting Mozart
on his deathbed

Mozart's influence on all subsequent Western art music is deep and profound. Beethoven wrote his own early compositions in the shadow of Mozart. Franz Joseph Haydn, who was 24 years older than Mozart and outlived him by another 18 years, wrote "**posterity will not see such a talent again in 100 years.**"



A painting depicting Mozart on his deathbed

**Taken as a whole,
the works of Mozart
represent perhaps
the most important
contribution to musical
repertoire by any
composer in history.**



A painting depicting Mozart
on his deathbed

Reasons Why Mozart Is Considered A Great Composer

Symphonies

41 symphonies, including many that are considered **masterpieces** and "**cornerstones**" of the symphonic repertoire, such as his final symphonies:

The "**Haffner**" Symphony (No. 35 in D)

The "**Linz**" Symphony (No. 36 in C)

The "**Prague**" Symphony (No. 38 in D)

Symphony No. 40 in G Minor (No subtitle)

The "**Jupiter**" Symphony (No. 41 in C)

Mozart Musical Example 1
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart:
Symphony No. 41 in C Major
nicknamed “**The Jupiter Symphony**”
4th Movement (Finale):
“Allegro Vivace” (“Very Lively”)
performed by the
Scottish Chamber Orchestra
Sir Charles Mackerras, conductor

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Reasons Why Mozart Is Considered A Great Composer

Operas & Solo Vocal Music

**Mozart's works for solo voice are among the
greatest and most important works for voice
ever composed, including:**

**The Marriage of Figaro
The Magic Flute Don Giovanni
Cosi fan tutte
Exsultate, Jubilate**

Mozart Musical Example 2

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart:

Aria of the “**Queen of the Night**”

from Act II of Mozart’s opera ***The Magic Flute***

performed by

Edda Moser, soprano

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Reasons Why Mozart Is Considered A Great Composer

Choral Music

**Masses and Other Liturgical Choral Works
that are considered to be among the most
important works in the choral repertoire,
including:**

Requiem K. 626

Mass in C Minor (“The Great”) K. 427

Ave Verum Corpus K. 618

Mozart Musical Example 3

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart:

“Sanctus”

from Mozart’s **Requiem**

performed by the

Chorus and **Orchestra**

of the **Bayerischen Rundfunks**

Leonard Bernstein, conductor

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Reasons Why Mozart Is Considered A Great Composer

Piano Music

**Mozart's works for solo piano
form one of the cornerstones
of solo piano repertoire, including:**

27 Piano Concertos

18 Piano Sonatas

16 sets of Variations for Solo Piano

Dozens of Miscellaneous Works

Mozart Musical Example 4

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart:

Piano Sonata No. 11 in A major

3rd Movement: **Rondò alla Turca**
(“Rondo in the Turkish Style”)

performed by

Jenő Jandó, pianist

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Reasons Why Mozart Is Considered A Great Composer

Chamber Music

**String Quartets, Sonatas and Serenades
for string instruments, wind instruments
and combinations of both
that are considered to be
among the most important works
in their respective repertoires**

Mozart Musical Example 5

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart:

Serenade No. 10 (“Gran Partita”)

3rd Movement: Adagio (“Slowly”)

performed by the

Amadeus Winds

Christopher Hogwood, conductor

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