

# The Works of Joseph Haydn

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Text Audio

## Who was Joseph Haydn?

Franz Joseph Haydn (known as Joseph Haydn) was an Austrian composer. He was born in Rohrau, Austria, in 1732. Even though he is called the father of the symphony and of the string quartet, he did not invent either one!

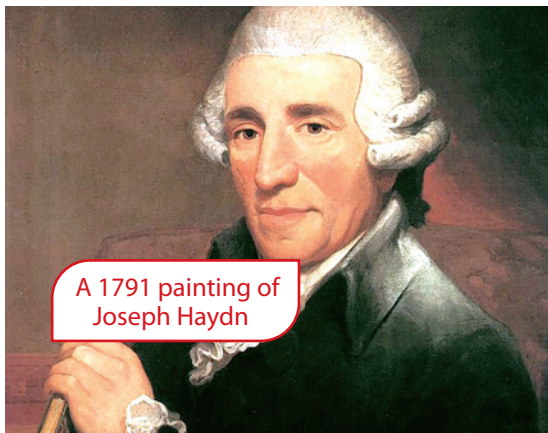
Haydn had the idea to mix music types. This had a big influence on how we make music today. Haydn's talent was making sure there was variety. He created works that contain several types of music, tempos, and instruments.



Haydn was born in this house in Rohrau, Austria.



A string quartet



A 1791 painting of Joseph Haydn





A view of the city of Hainburg



Hainburg is in northern Austria, near the border with Slovakia.

Haydn's parents understood that their son had a special talent for music. They wanted him to have the chance to develop this talent. So, they sent him to live in the city of Hainburg. He left his parents and lived with a teacher.



St. Stephen's  
Cathedral, Vienna

At age six, Haydn joined a choir led by his new teacher in Hainburg. He was then chosen for the famous St. Stephen's Cathedral choir in Vienna. Haydn became a musician—singing, playing, teaching, and of course, studying.



↑ Singers in  
a choir



Sadly, his teacher's family did not treat him well. He did not have enough food to eat. His clothes were often dirty. But he learned a lot about music.

As a child, Haydn was not treated well.



Haydn learned a lot about music.

His first big chance came in 1761. Prince Paul of Esterházy, who was very rich and loved music, named Haydn as the second choir master at his palace in Eisenstadt, Austria. Haydn became full choir master when Paul's brother Nicholas became the prince.

Prince Nicholas, the brother of Prince Paul, was Haydn's greatest supporter.



Esterházy Palace in Eisenstadt, Austria



A choir master tells a choir when and how to sing.





Nicholas built a summer palace at Esterházy, out in the country in Hungary. This far-away location kept Haydn from other composers and musical ideas. Haydn himself felt that living far from others forced him to be more original.

Although he was not living in a major city, his music traveled to many places. For many years, Haydn was the most famous composer in Europe.





A view from the grounds of the Esterháza Palace, Hungary

When Prince Nicholas died in 1790, Haydn became a bit more free from the court. He could travel—as long as he called himself “the Choir Master of Esterházy.”



↗ The orchestra is playing a symphony.



London today

Haydn made many long visits to London in 1791-1792 and in 1794-1795. He wrote his last twelve symphonies there. In London, Haydn was very famous. Even the future King George IV bowed to him!



George IV, before he became king of England



The English king and queen wanted Haydn to stay in London. They even said they would buy him an apartment in Windsor. But Haydn said no and went back to the Esterházy court in 1795.

Haydn passed away in Vienna in 1809, very loved and respected.

Haydn's body was placed in this church in Eisenstadt, Vienna.



Windsor, England, is famous for its large castle.