

The Works of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

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Seed
Learning





Contents

Who was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart?	4
<i>Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (1787)</i>	13
<i>The Magic Flute (1791)</i>	17
Reading Quiz	23
New Words	24
Music Timeline	26
Notes	30



Text Audio

Who was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart?

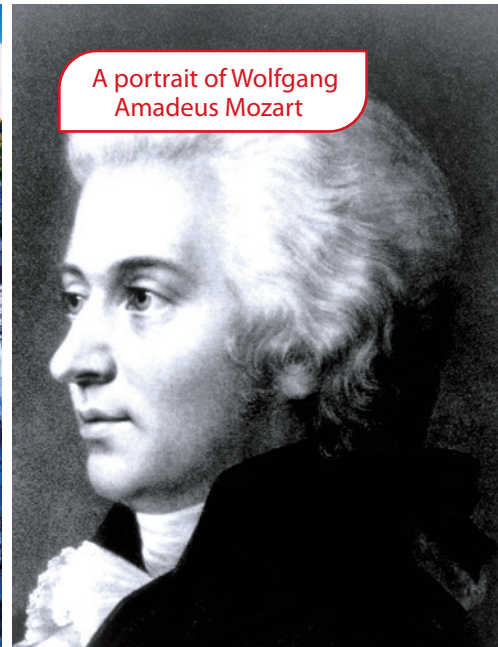
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was an Austrian composer. He was born on January 27, 1756 in Salzburg, Austria. Mozart wrote over 800 works. His father Leopold was also a successful composer and played the violin.



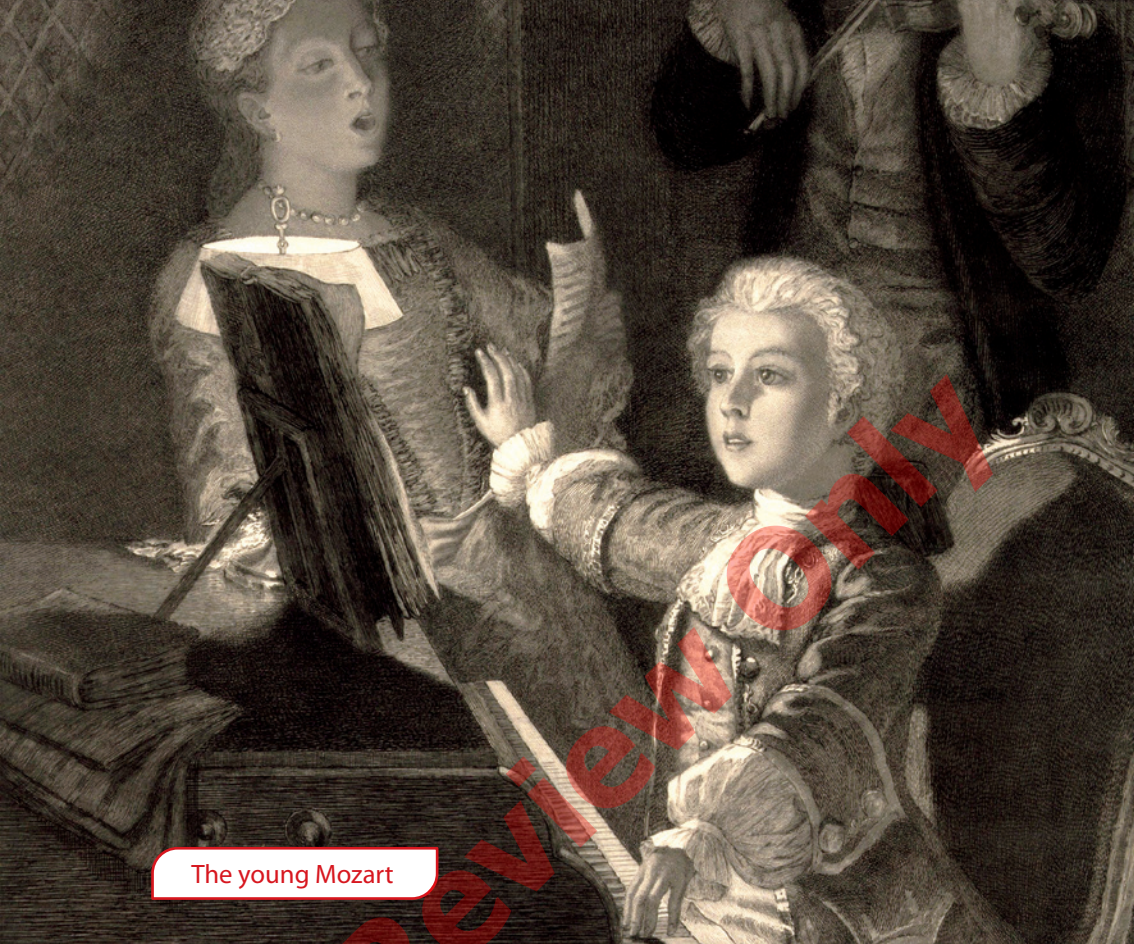
A violin



Salzburg is a big city in Austria.



A portrait of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



The young Mozart

Leopold introduced his son to music at a very young age. By five years of age, Mozart was already writing music. However, he was so small that he needed his father's help to hold his pencil.



↖ Mozart began writing when he was very young.

The Mozart family traveled in Europe. ➔

In 1762, when Mozart was just six years old, he was already able to play many musical instruments. During that same year, Leopold took the young Mozart and his sister on a tour of Europe to play music.



Musical instruments ➔



Mozart as a child in 1763 with his father and sister

Seven years later in 1769, when Mozart was thirteen, his father took him to Italy. He wanted to show off his son's musical skills. While he was in Italy, Mozart wrote a successful opera, *Mitridate, Re di Ponto* (1770). Mozart would come to write many great operas during his life. The family returned to Austria in 1771.



Italy is famous for opera, pizza, and pasta.

Mozart grew up in this house in Austria.

An opera tells a story through song.

At the age of twenty-one, Mozart was tired of living in Salzburg. He set out to find a new job in a new city but returned to Salzburg in 1779. Two years later, he had a lucky break. A man from the church where he worked asked him to go to Vienna. Mozart found work in Vienna teaching, playing, and writing music.

A map showing the location of Salzburg



Salzburg is a beautiful town in Austria.



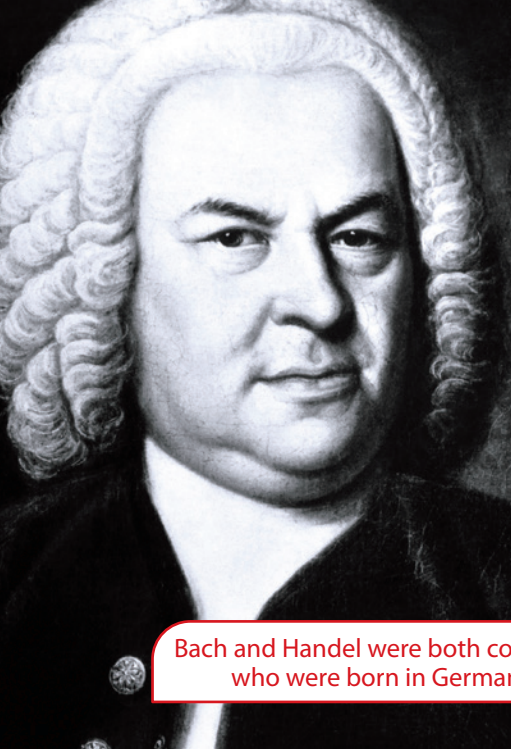
Mozart could play many different instruments.

By the mid-1780s, Mozart was doing well. He had written several successful works, and he was playing in concerts. At one point, he played in twenty-two concerts in five weeks. During most of these concerts, Mozart played different musical instruments.



An audience enjoying a concert





Bach and Handel were both composers who were born in Germany.



Mozart was a big fan of Bach and Handel and tried to write pieces similar to their work. Around 1784, Mozart met Joseph Haydn, and they became very good friends. Whenever Haydn visited Vienna, he and Mozart would perform surprise concerts.

Joseph Haydn was a composer from Austria.



Many think *The Marriage of Figaro* is the best opera ever written. ➔

From 1786 on, Mozart played in fewer concerts and spent more time writing music to earn money. He focused on opera for the next two years. During this time, Mozart wrote his famous operas *The Marriage of Figaro* (1786) and *Don Giovanni* (1787).



The original poster for *Don Giovanni*, an opera based on an old Spanish story



Inside the house where Mozart grew up, now a museum



Mozart's tomb in Vienna

Toward the end of his life, Mozart was very busy writing music. But he fell ill in September 1791 and died on December 5. He was only thirty-five years old.