

The Works of Frédéric Chopin

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Text Audio

Who was Frédéric Chopin?

Fryderyk Chopin (known as Frédéric Chopin) was a Polish composer and virtuoso pianist born in 1810 in Żelazowa Wola, a village near Warsaw. He is known as one of the greatest piano composers ever.

A drawing of
young Chopin →



Chopin's birthplace in
Żelazowa Wola



Famous already as a child, Chopin grew up in Warsaw, where he finished his music studies. He wrote many of his works before leaving Poland for France in 1830 at age twenty.



Chopin lived in the city of Paris.



Two of Chopin's apartments were on this Parisian street!

Chopin lived in Paris, France, for the rest of his short life. In Paris, Chopin met many other artists and musicians, and found many chances to show off his talent. Chopin became friends with composer Franz Liszt and was greatly respected by many musicians for his virtuoso ability.



↑ Liszt was a famous composer.

During this time, Chopin performed only about thirty times, usually in small salons. He liked playing at his own Paris apartment for groups of friends. He always felt most comfortable playing to a small, live audience.

A salon like the ones Chopin used →



A statue of Chopin in Warsaw, Poland



In France, Chopin used the French form of his given name, Frédéric. However, Chopin never felt completely comfortable speaking French. He never even felt like he was French, even though his father was from France. He always saw himself as Polish.

The flags of France and Poland →



A modern grand piano





Sheet music
handwritten by Chopin



A solo pianist
on stage

Since Chopin wrote many piano pieces, he was called the “master of the piano.” Most of Chopin’s over 200 works are for solo piano. He added new ideas to almost all forms of piano music. His piano works are often very difficult to play.



Chopin used to appear
on Polish money.



Chopin's grave at a cemetery in Paris, France

Every single one of Chopin's works includes the piano. When listening to his music, the close relationship between the music and the piano is very clear. It almost seems that the music could not be played on any other instrument.

Sadly, for most of his life, Chopin did not have good health. He died in Paris in 1849, at the young age of thirty-nine, from a serious lung disease.



Chopin suffered from a disease in his lungs.