

# Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

January 27, 1756 – December 5, 1791



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was one of the most remarkable composers in the history of music and a central figure of the Classical era, which grew out of the ideas of the Enlightenment.

He was born in 1756 in Salzburg, a small but culturally rich city in what is now Austria. His father, Leopold Mozart, was a skilled musician and teacher who quickly recognized his son's extraordinary talent.

By the age of five, Mozart was already composing simple pieces of music, and as a young child he performed for royalty and nobility across Europe, astonishing audiences with his ability to play the keyboard and violin with ease.

Mozart spent much of his childhood traveling with his family, giving concerts in major cities such as Vienna, Paris, and London. These journeys exposed him to a wide variety of musical styles and traditions, which helped shape his own musical voice.

Despite his early success, life as a traveling musician was demanding, and Mozart often faced long journeys and uncertain circumstances. As he grew older, he began to seek independence from his father and from the strict control of court employment, which was the usual path for musicians at the time.

In his early adulthood, Mozart settled in Vienna, where he hoped to build a career as a freelance composer and performer. This was a bold and somewhat risky decision, as most composers relied on the support of wealthy patrons. In Vienna, he composed some of his greatest works, including symphonies, operas, chamber music, and piano concertos.

His music is known for its clarity, balance, and beauty, reflecting the Enlightenment ideals of order and harmony. At the same time, his compositions are full of emotion, humor, and depth, showing a deep understanding of human nature.

Mozart's operas, such as *The Magic Flute*, combined engaging stories with music that expressed both character and meaning. His instrumental works, including symphonies like No. 40 and No. 41, demonstrate a masterful sense of structure and invention. He had an extraordinary ability to take complex musical ideas and present them in a way that felt natural and effortless. This balance between complexity and simplicity is one of the reasons his music continues to be admired and performed today.

Although Mozart achieved great success during his lifetime, he also faced financial difficulties. His income was often unpredictable, and he struggled to manage money. In his later years, his health declined, yet he continued to compose, producing works of great beauty and intensity. One of his final compositions was the *Requiem in D minor*, a piece that reflects a more serious and contemplative side of his music.

Mozart died in 1791 at the age of thirty-five, leaving behind a vast body of work that has had a lasting influence on Western music. His life, though short, was filled with creativity and achievement. Today, he is remembered not only as a musical genius but also as a composer who captured the spirit of his time, blending the Enlightenment's ideals of order and clarity with a profound expression of human emotion.

# Classical Pieces

Week 1 - Eine kleine Nachtmusik, Serenade No. 13

Week 2 - Piano Sonata No. 11 in A major, K. 331

Week 3 - Clarinet Concerto in A major, K.622

Week 4 - Symphony No. 40 in G minor

Week 5 - Piano Concerto No. 21. K.467

Week 6 - Requiem in D minor

**Bonus:** The Magic Flute (Opera)