



Frédéric Chopin

March 1, 1810 – October 17, 1849

Frédéric François Chopin was a Polish composer and piano virtuoso. He composed mainly piano solo pieces during the Romantic Era of music and was considered to be such a remarkable talent that there was no equal in his generation.

Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin was born in the Duchy of Warsaw to a French father who had adopted Poland as his homeland. He insisted on speaking Polish in the household.

Even as a child Chopin was often ill and of a small personage. His infirmities did not challenge his musical abilities, however. It was evident that he was a child prodigy and at the age of 7, he began playing public concerts. He was composing his first pieces in 1817, though his earliest surviving manuscript is from 1821 and was dedicated to his first piano tutor.

Chopin attended the Warsaw Lyceum from 1823 to 1826 and studied organ, music theory, composition, and figured bass. He continued composing and playing salons. There he met some of the friends that would follow him to Paris.

Chopin left Poland barely a month before the Polish-Russian War broke out. He wanted to go to Italy, but the political unrest there forced him to go to Paris instead. He received French citizenship in 1835 but always considered himself to be a Pole.

Chopin's contemporaries of whom he was friends and occasionally performed with included other musical greats of the era like Franz Liszt, Hector Berlioz, and Felix Mendelssohn. They would perform arrangements together and assist each other with compositions.

By 1842, Chopin's health began to decline and so did the number of compositions he was able to create. By 1848, he was having financial difficulty and went to London to perform with the help of a patron, Julia Stirling. In June 1849 his sister Ludwika came to Paris with her husband and daughter, and in September, supported by a loan from Jane Stirling, he took an apartment at Place Vendôme 12.

On October 17, after midnight, the physician leaned over him and asked whether he was suffering greatly. "No longer", he replied. He died a few minutes before two o'clock in the morning.

The funeral, held at the Church of the Madeleine in Paris, was delayed almost two weeks. Entrance was restricted to ticket holders because many people were expected to attend. Over 3,000 people arrived without invitations from as far as London, Berlin, and Vienna, but were turned away.

Classical Pieces

Week 1 - Étude No. 11 in A minor, 'Winter Wind'

Week 2 - Fantaisie Impromptu Op. 66

Week 3 - Waltz in A minor B150

Week 4 - Nocturne in E flat major, Op. 9 No. 2



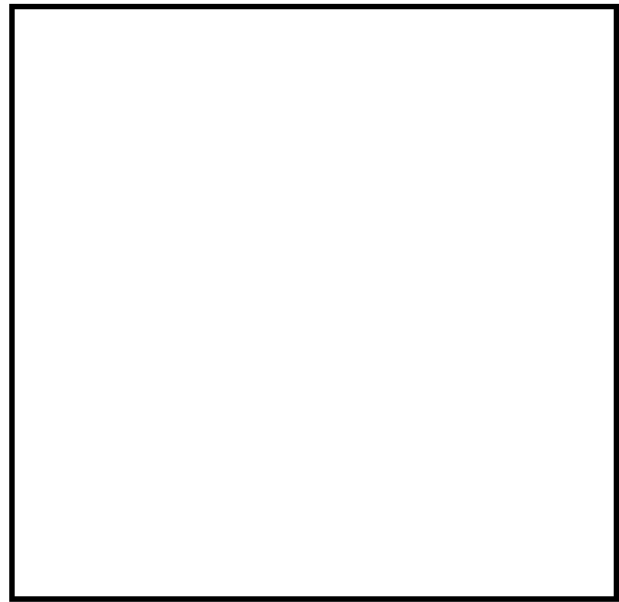
Composer Study

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Composer Fun Facts:



Instruments Used: _____

Famous Compositions: _____

Further Study:

