

# Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

1756 – 1791

(VOLF-gahng ah-mah-DAY-oos MOHT-zart)



- Mozart's great musical talents were recognized at age 3 when he began harpsichord lessons with his father.
- Born in Austria, he traveled to many countries in Europe as a child with his talented sister so his father could display their talents in musical contests.
- Young Wolfgang loved everything about music and took it very seriously.
- Mozart lived at a time when most musicians had a patron; someone who paid them to compose and perform, but who told them what to compose and when to perform.
- Mozart wasn't very happy with this, so in his mid-20s he left this system and struck out on his own.
- Mozart composed, gave concerts and taught piano lessons but his income wasn't steady, and neither he nor his wife were good at managing a household budget.
- He composed over 600 pieces of music, some of them quite long, in his 35 years.
- Of those 600 compositions there were 21 stage and opera works, 15 Masses, 50+ symphonies, 25 piano concertos, 12 violin concertos, 27 concert arias, 17 piano sonatas, 26 string quartets, and many others.



Listen to the Overture to "The Marriage of Figaro"