

# Franz Joseph Haydn

(frahnts JOH-zuhf HAHYD-n)

1732 – 1809



- Haydn was born in Austria. He showed great talent for music and at 5, he left home to be a choir boy and study music.
- At 8, he was asked to join the prestigious Choir School of St Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. He sang there for 9 years and was kicked out when his voice changed.
- From 17-25 he struggled as a freelance musician, performing and teaching lessons. He also studied composition, filling in the gaps of his music education.
- He slowly gained a reputation as a composer and soon secured a job as music director for a local, wealthy Count.
- While working for the wealthy, Austrian, Esterházy family, he had opportunities to travel and perform, to London and Vienna. On these journeys he became good friends with Mozart and was able to mentor young Beethoven for a time.
- Haydn's music is well loved and he is known as "The Father of the Symphony" and "The Father of the String Quartet".
- Over the course of his life, Haydn composed 107 symphonies, 83 string quartets, 45 piano trios, 62 piano sonatas, 14 masses, 26 operas and hundreds of other musical works.



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