

Introduction

Mozart was a very famous composer in his day and in the present, and will be for many years to come. He was a child prodigy when he was young and a renowned musician and composer in his later years. His music inspired many composers to create their masterpieces and many composers success is owed to Mozart and his works.

I hope this project will give you more of an insight into Mozart's life and works.



Biography

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, christened Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart, born on the twenty-seventh of January in 1756, Salzburg, Austria was going to be big.

At four he could learn a piece of music in thirty minutes, at six he started composing and at eight, he was writing symphonies.

His father, Leopold, was already a famous musician who invented a new violin method, but he knew the real star was going to be his son, so when Wolfgang was six he decided to exhibit Wolfgang and his talented sister Maria Anna, five years older than Wolfgang, on a tour of Munich and Vienna.

After an absence of four years on tour, the exhibition had turned out to be unsuccessful in its goal, to make money and establish Wolfgang in a major European court. The nobility had given him gifts, but not enough as to make the tour a financial success, and Wolfgang had failed to find a permanent job.

In 1777 Wolfgang went on tour with his mother to Munich, Mannheim and Paris. The tours were not as popular now, as Mozart had grown up and the appeal was lost. This did not bring Mozart's Spirit down though, he had many love affairs, one involving his cousin and a daughter of a copyist called Constanze Weber, who he later went on to marry strongly against his fathers wishes. The tour was even less of a success because in Paris his mother died suddenly in July 1778 and he dejectedly returned to Salzburg without a mother and job in 1779.

Wolfgang continued to compose and play music in and by his early teens, he had mastered the piano, violin and harpsichord, and was writing keyboard pieces, oratorios, symphonies and operas until at 15 he was given the position of concertmaster in the orchestra of the Archbishop of Salzburg in 1779 but he and the Arch Bishop did not get along together so he quit his lofty position in 1781 after arguments and headed for Vienna also strongly against his fathers wishes.

Here Mozart stayed with the Weber family and initially thrived with the success of his operas. After Mozart married Constanze in 1779, they had six children, of which two survived and after a few years of composing and playing and meeting people (including the composer Hayden) he

eventually in 1790 began writing letters to friends begging for money as he was a poor businessman and spent more money than he earned.

His wife got sick from under nourishment as they were so poor.

In the last year of his life, he was just starting to become financially stable after the success of the 'magic flute' and was visited by a masked messenger in grey asking Mozart to compose a requiem. The messenger was representing a nobleman who asked famous composers to write then put the music in his own name. Mozart took this as a sign from above that his time was coming and so started writing his own requiem, was found unconscious at his desk a few days later and put in bed. In the last few hours, he told his pupil Süßmayer how the requiem was to be presented and finished, said goodbye to his family then turned his face to the wall. He was found a few hours later, dead.

Mozart ended his career at the tragically young age of thirty six from what most likely seems to be a disease of the liver and was buried by decree of Emperor Joseph in a common grave in St. Marks church- but the grave was unmarked so when Constance came to put flowers on his grave a week later, she could not find it. The whereabouts of the grave is still unknown.

Conclusion

Mozart began his career early, hearing many pieces of music from all around Europe which he eventually crystallised into his own unique style which was a factor of his artistic success.

His downfall is due to two things, the fickleness of the Viennese people and his financial mind.

Mozart was a short, slim man with a head that was slightly too large for his body but his well proportioned features made him relatively handsome. He dressed richly and was proud of his at times eccentric hair.

His music is still enjoyed over two centuries after his death and his style can be heard in music from his idolisers, such as Richard Wagner, Peter Tchaikovsky and the neo classical composers Igor Stravinsky and Sergei Prokofiev.



By **Your name here**

Sources

This project was compiled (not copied) with information from these sites:

<http://www.composers.net/database/m/MozartWA.html>

<http://www.designhouse.net/lecagot/biography.asp>

<http://www.ipl.org/div/mushist/clas/mozart.htm>

and the pictures are from the google images search engine.