

# Franz Joseph Haydn

Frahntz Yo'-zef Hide'-n

## A composer of the Classical era.

Franz Joseph Haydn was the second of twelve children. His family was quite poor. When Franz was six, his parents sent him to live with a family relative, Johann Frankh, in Hainburg, Austria. Mr. Frankh was a private music teacher and gave Franz lessons on the harpsichord, violin, and in music harmony and theory. In Hainburg, young Franz sang in a church boychoir and eventually became the chief soloist for the group.

When Franz turned 17 and became too old for the boychoir, he made a living playing harpsichord and violin. He also began composing and completed his first **mass** at age 19, his first **string quartet** at 23, and his first **symphony** at 27.

He married his wife, Anna, in 1760. They separated a few years later but Haydn continued to support Anna for the rest of her life.

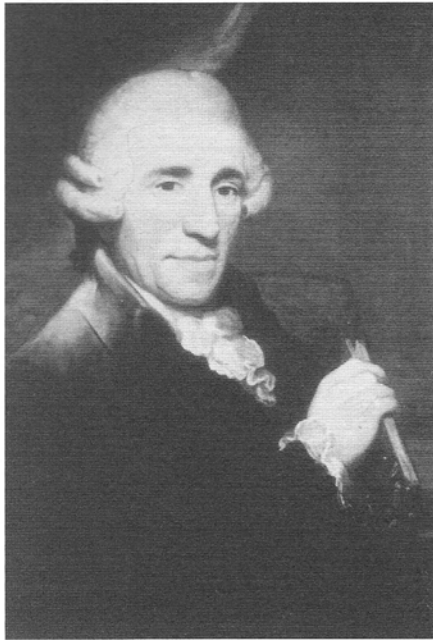
In 1761 (age 29), he became the assistant choirmaster to Prince Paul Esterhazy, an Austrian prince who was a great admirer of music. Haydn eventually became a full-time **court musician** and lived and worked in the Esterhazy palace for 29 years, until the death of the prince in 1790. His daily routine required him to provide music for family concerts, private performances, and worship services. The prince also had an excellent orchestra which regularly performed Haydn's compositions.

Living in the palace, Haydn was cut off from the musical centers of Europe and, except for a few brief trips to Vienna, Austria, was not exposed to the music of other composers. He therefore developed his own style of music. He was not influenced by other composers with the exception of **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**, who Haydn met in 1781. When they met, Haydn was 49 and Mozart was 25. Nevertheless, the older Haydn was influenced by the younger Mozart.

In 1791, after the death of Prince Esterhazy, Haydn traveled to London where he was highly regarded by British royalty. Here he heard the music of **George Frideric Handel** and was much impressed with Handel's **oratorios**. In 1795 he returned permanently to Austria and settled in Vienna where he wrote the *Emperor's Hymn*, which is now the national anthem of Austria. Inspired by Handel, Haydn also wrote several successful oratorios.

By his mid-60s, Haydn's health was failing. For the last 10 years of his life he wrote little, although he frequently attended concert performances of his music.

Franz Joseph Haydn was a personable man, generous and honorable. He was much admired by royalty throughout Europe. He wrote a large number of works and was very industrious as a composer. He was fortunate to have a **patron**, Prince Esterhazy, who gave him the freedom to write music for a variety of occasions. However, it was not until Haydn was over 40 that his music was successful in concert halls outside the Esterhazy palace.



*born*

**March 31, 1732**  
*Rohrau, Austria*

*died*

**May 31, 1809**  
*Vienna, Austria*

“

**Whoever studies  
music, let his daily  
bread be Haydn.**

*—Jean Ingres  
(1780-1867)*

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# Franz Joseph Haydn

What I composed	Orchestra	Concerto	Chamber Music	Keyboard	Opera	Theater/Film	Ballet	Band	Choral	Vocal Solos
<b>Franz Joseph Haydn</b>	>	>	>	>	>				>	>

## Haydn Factoids:

- Haydn composed over 175 pieces for the baryton, a stringed instrument played with a bow which had as many as 40 strings. The baryton was the only instrument his patron, Prince Esterhazy, could play.
- **Ludwig van Beethoven** was a student of Haydn.
- Although he never had children of his own, Haydn was often called Papa Haydn because of his jolly personality.
- According to Haydn, he was not influenced by any other composer except **Mozart**. He said, "There was no one near to confuse me, so I was forced to become more original."

**1732:** Birth of Franz Joseph Haydn; birth of George Washington.

**1742:** **George Frideric Handel's** *Messiah* first performed in Dublin, Ireland.

**1752:** Benjamin Franklin proves that lightning is electricity.

**1760:** George III crowned King of England.

**1770:** James Cook discovers east coast of Australia.

**1775:** American Revolution begins.

**1783:** **Wolfgang Mozart** composes Mass in C minor.

**1802:** **Ludwig van Beethoven** composes Symphony No. 2 in D Major.

**1809:** Death of Franz Joseph Haydn; James Madison is inaugurated as 4th President of U.S.

**What in the world  
is happening?**

# Listen!

## Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) Symphony in G Major, No. 94 (*Surprise*), Second Movement



Haydn wrote more music in his lifetime than even he could remember. Notice the number of this symphony: 94! He wrote a grand total of 104. When he was visiting in London (age 59-63) he was introduced to King George III who said, "You have composed a great deal, Dr. Haydn," and Haydn replied, "Yes, Sire, more perhaps, than was wise!"

He wrote the *Surprise* Symphony while in London, England, and made use of the large orchestra of 41 players at his disposal. At this time, Haydn was employed by Prince Esterhazy of Austria, and his works were most often performed at the palace for entertainment at small dinner parties. He was accustomed to writing for strings alone, without any brass or woodwind instruments. But the audiences of London were more sophisticated, so Haydn added brass and woodwinds to his orchestration for the *Surprise* symphony. The London audiences loved it.

The surprise, which gives this symphony its title, is found in this movement. At the very beginning the music is peaceful, melodic and pianissimo (very soft). Then, suddenly a chord explodes from the full orchestra, and this is a surprise to the listener. When this very loud "surprise" chord is played, can you also hear the timpani being played? The timpani, sometimes called a kettle drum, is part of the percussion section.

- What instrument is playing the melody (first theme) at the very beginning?
- Raise your hand when you hear the second theme.

### TIMING

- :01** The opening melody is played in a detached manner on low and medium low string instruments. When analyzing a piece of music, musicians will refer to the opening melody as the "A" melody or the "A" theme. Subsequent melodies will be labeled "B," "C," "D," and so on.
- :19** The opening melody is repeated, softer than before.
- :37** SURPRISE! A loud chord is suddenly heard. This sudden, loud chord is what caused people to refer to this symphony as the "Surprise" symphony. A second melody begins here. It is a smoother melody, contrasting with the detached opening melody, but ends similarly to the "A" melody.
- :58** The woodwind instruments enter. Listen in particular for the flutes and oboe.
- 1:17** More instruments enter on the "A" melody. The violins play a counter-melody.
- 1:36** The "A" melody repeats with the violin counter-melody.
- 1:54** The "B" melody (the theme first played at :37) is heard again, this time with a counter-melody.

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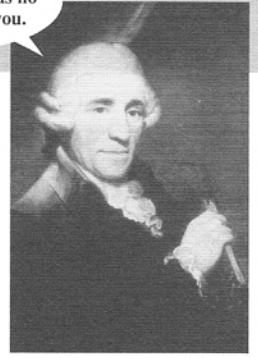
I tell you on my word  
as an honest man  
that your son is the  
greatest composer I  
have ever heard of.

–Franz Joseph  
Haydn, to Leopold  
Mozart, the father of  
Wolfgang Amadeus  
Mozart.

”

# Review!

This review should come as no surprise to you.



**Franz Joseph Haydn**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Place the letter of the correct answer in the space provided.  
For True/False questions, print True or False in the space provided.

- As a child, Haydn was a soloist in a \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. band  
B. boychoir  
C. ballet company  
D. string quartet
- True or False: Haydn began composing while still a teenager. \_\_\_\_\_
- Haydn worked as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. court musician  
B. an opera singer  
C. a band director  
D. all of the above
- True or False: During the last ten years of his life, Haydn wrote a great deal of music. \_\_\_\_\_
- Haydn met or taught many other composers, including \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
B. Ludwig van Beethoven  
C. George Frideric Handel  
D. all of the above
- As a composer, Haydn was influenced by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
B. Ludwig van Beethoven  
C. George Frideric Handel  
D. none of the above
- When Haydn worked for Prince Esterhazy, which of the following was not a part of his duties? \_\_\_\_\_  
A. compose music for family concerts  
B. compose music for the Prince's military band  
C. compose music for private performances  
D. compose music for church services
- The Listening Example, Haydn's Symphony No. 4, is also known as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. the *Timpani* Symphony  
B. the *Surprise* Symphony  
C. the *Oratorio* Symphony  
D. the *Baryton* Symphony
- True or False: Another name for timpani is kettle drum. \_\_\_\_\_
- In analyzing a piece of music, musicians refer to the main melody as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. the A melody  
B. the grand melody  
C. the Number One melody  
D. the orchestra melody

## Bonus:

What was the only instrument Haydn's patron, Prince Esterhazy could play?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Volf'-gahng Ah-mah-day'-oos Moh'-tsart. In German, a "w" is pronounced like an English "v."

## A composer of the Classical era.

Encouraged by his father, Leopold, Wolfgang Mozart began playing the **clavier** at the age of 4. By age 5 he began composing, and by 10 he had written his first **symphony**. He could play any music put in front of him on the clavier, organ or violin. He wrote his first **opera** at 14.

Wolfgang was a child musical **prodigy**. His father, a violinist, guided Wolfgang's career as a touring concert artist throughout Europe. In addition to presenting his son's talent to huge audiences, Leopold wanted Wolfgang to become familiar with the various styles of music popular throughout Europe.

When they weren't touring, Wolfgang and his father were employed by the Archbishop of Salzburg—Leopold as an orchestra conductor and Wolfgang as a violinist. The archbishop recognized Wolfgang's talent and allowed father and son to take extended leaves of absence for concert tours. When the archbishop died, his successor ended the concert tours and eventually fired Wolfgang. Leopold remained as orchestra conductor.

In 1781 (age 25), Mozart moved to Vienna, Austria, and became a full-time composer and music teacher. Although several of his compositions had been published, he soon realized that he earned less money as a composer than as a performer. He married in 1782, but his new wife, Constanze, found it difficult to deal with his inability to make money as a composer. She encouraged him to seek a position as a **court musician**.

In 1787, he took a job as the private musician to the emperor of Austria. This gave him a small but steady income. As a court musician, Mozart was required to compose music for many occasions, both for public performances and for private gatherings hosted by the emperor. He continued in this position, composing music for the emperor as well as other musical groups in Vienna, until his death, just four years later at the age of 35. Eventually all the hard work of continuous composing and trying to make money caused his health to fail. He died a very poor, overworked musical genius.

Mozart wrote hundreds of musical works, including symphonies, operas, **concertos**, **oratorios**, and solo works for clavier. Most of these works were performed in Vienna with great success. Throughout his life, Mozart never had any difficulty in getting his music performed or published, and it was very much admired and appreciated by audiences in Vienna and throughout Europe.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was a short man with piercing eyes and long hair which he groomed carefully. He was outgoing, always friendly, and enjoyed the company of others. He is considered one of the greatest composers of the eighteenth century. He worked tirelessly as a composer and wrote a huge number of works during his short life.



*born*

**January 27, 1756**  
*Salzburg, Austria*

*died*

**December 5, 1791**  
*Vienna, Austria*

“  
Melody is the very  
essence of music.  
When I think of a  
good melody, I think  
of a fine race horse.  
—Wolfgang Amadeus  
Mozart

”

# Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

What I composed	Orchestra	Concerto	Chamber Music	Keyboard	Opera	Theater/Film	Ballet	Band	Choral	Vocal Solos
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	>	>	>	>	>				>	>

## Mozart Factoids:

- One of Mozart's friends was Johann Christian Bach, son of **Johann Sebastian Bach**.
- For his entire life, even when he was a child, Mozart was considered a musical genius.
- He wrote several pieces for the glass harmonica, an instrument invented by Benjamin Franklin which became very popular in Europe. It consisted of rotating glass bowls which the performer plays by touching the rims of the bowls as they rotate.
- Mozart was very much influenced by the music of **Franz Joseph Haydn**.

**1756:** Birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

**1763:** The Peace of Paris treaty yields much of Canada to Great Britain.

**1764:** London, England, introduces the practice of numbering houses.

**1765:** British Parliament passes the Stamp Act for taxing American colonies.

**1770:** **George Frideric Handel's** *Messiah* first performed in New York.

**1783:** American Revolutionary War ends.

**1787:** The Constitution of the U.S. signed in Philadelphia.

**1789:** Beginning of the French Revolution.

**1791:** Death of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; **Franz Joseph Haydn** composes *Surprise* Symphony (Listening Example 5).

What in the world is happening?

# Listen!

## Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*



The opera *The Marriage of Figaro* is a love story with many twists and turns. It's a comedy, which is why it appealed to Mozart, who had a sense of humor. The **libretto** was written by Lorenzo da Ponte, who Mozart met in Vienna, Austria. The story was based on a comedy of the same title by Pierre Beaumarchais. (Beaumarchais, interestingly, helped secure French support for the American colonists during the American Revolutionary War.) Once the libretto was written it took Mozart about six months to complete the music. He was at the height of his creativity. While composing *The Marriage of Figaro* he also composed two **symphonies**, several **string quartets** and piano **concertos**, in addition to teaching several students.

Mozart submitted *The Marriage of Figaro* to the emperor of Austria, who was seeking an opera to produce. Two other composers also submitted operas ready for production, but the emperor chose Mozart's opera. Mozart had said that if *The Marriage of Figaro* was not chosen, he would burn it. So, naturally, he was thrilled that it had been chosen. The first performance was May 1, 1786 at the Imperial Court Theater in Vienna, Austria. It was a huge success

•An opera overture prepares the audience for what is to come in the opera. It sets the tone for the upcoming drama and singing. This overture is in what meter (the number of beats in a measure)?

•The strings are the dominant instrument, but can you listen carefully and hear other instruments? What are some of those instruments?

### TIMING

- :01** The strings play the main melody, followed by the woodwinds. There are soft and loud contrasts within this melody. Also, the strings and woodwinds alternate. Listen for the fast, rapid passages played by the strings.
- :49** A new melody is introduced. It begins softly. The "B" melody is similar to the "A" melody, with many accented notes. Like the "A" melody it also has fast, rapid passages.
- 1:12** Listen for a melody in the low strings. The upper strings play rapid passages.
- 1:20** Still another melody is introduced. It is soft and played in a smooth manner (*legato*). This melody is more delicate and contrasts with the previous melodies.
- 1:55** The main melody returns.

“  
Mozart was once  
asked to explain his  
music. He replied,  
“How do I know?”  
”

# Review!

Maybe I took this composing thing too seriously.



**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Place the letter of the correct answer in the space provided.

For True/False questions, print True or False in the space provided.

1. A clavier is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. a keyboard instrument                      C. a brass instrument  
B. a woodwind instrument                      D. a percussion instrument
2. True or False: Mozart did not complete his first composition until the age of 40.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Mozart composed \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. operas                      C. oratorios  
B. symphonies                      D. all of the above
4. A prodigy is \_\_\_\_\_.                      A. a greatly talented child  
A court musician is \_\_\_\_\_.                      B. a musician hired by a member of royalty
5. True or False: Mozart's music was widely performed and appreciated during his lifetime. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The Listening Example, Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*, is from \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. an oratorio                      C. a ballet  
B. an opera                      D. a clavier
7. Mozart was influenced by the music of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Antonio Vivaldi                      C. Hildegard  
B. Franz Joseph Haydn                      D. George Frideric Handel
8. True or False: At one point in his life, Mozart was a court musician.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. True or False: Mozart composed the libretto for *The Marriage of Figaro*.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. In the listening example, Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*,  
the melody is first played by \_\_\_\_\_,                      A. the woodwinds  
and then the melody is played by \_\_\_\_\_.                      B. the strings

## Bonus:

What instrument was invented by Benjamin Franklin?

\_\_\_\_\_