

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

- Born in Salzburg, Austria on January 27, 1756
- Died in Vienna, Austria on December 5, 1791

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

- Called by his father “The miracle that God let be born in Salzburg.”
- Called “The greatest musical genius that ever lived.”

On January 27, 1756, a baby boy was born to Leopold Mozart and his wife in Salzburg, Austria. This baby was the seventh child born to the couple but only the second to survive. His parents named him Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgang Theophilus Mozart.

Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart

- This seems like a very long name but in the course of Mozart's life it was due to get even longer.
- Does anyone know what the word "Theophilus" means?
- Think of what the word "Philadelphia" means and then think of what "Theo" or "Theos" means.

Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart

- Did you figure it out?
- “Theophilus” means “God’s love.” “Theo” meaning “God” and “philus” meaning “love.”
- When Mozart was a boy he visited Italy. While he was there, he added “Amadeus” to his name.
- Can you guess what “Amadeus” means?

Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Amadeus Mozart

- If you guessed “God’s Love,” you are right!
- However, Mozart was not to end there. After returning to Germany, he added “Gottlieb.”
- Now, can you guess what “Gottlieb” means?
- This shouldn’t take you long, because it means “God’s Love” in German.

Johannes Chrysostomus
Wolfgangus Theophilus
Amadeus Gottlieb Mozart

- So now he has seven names, but it didn't end there. At some time his father added the family name of "Sigismundus" which made his name now

Johannes Chrysostomus
Wolfgangus Theophilus Amadeus
Gottlieb Sigismundus Mozart.

How would you like
a name like this?
Read it aloud with me.

Johannes Chrysostomus

Wolfgangus Theophilus

Amadeus Gottlieb

Sigismundus Mozart

Can you imagine filling in the dots on the achievement tests with a name like that??????

- Throughout his life he used the shortened version of his name
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.
- His family called him “Wolferl.”

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



Age 3

- Leopold Mozart gave harpsichord lessons to Wolfgang's older sister, Nannerl.
- When Mozart was three, he tried to play the keys on the harpsichord. His father reprimanded him severely and told him that the harpsichord was a very expensive instrument and not a toy for a child to play with.
- One day when his father was not around, he climbed up on the bench of the harpsichord and played his sister's pieces perfectly.

Ages 3 and 4

- His father immediately recognized that there was an extremely talented child in his home and began to teach Wolfgang to play.
- At the age of four, Mozart began composing simple compositions. It is thought that at first his father wrote them down for him as he composed them.

Age 5

- At age 5, however, he composed his first real composition.
- His father and one of the court trumpet players returned to the house to find Mozart busily writing at the desk. As he ran to meet his father, he was waving a piece of paper wildly, “Father, Father, look! I have written a sonata.”

Age 5

- The men looked at the paper in amusement but soon realized it really was musical notes. His father dismissed it quickly, “Very nice, Wolferl, but it is far too difficult for anyone to play.”
- “It’s supposed to be difficult.” the little boy responded. “It’s a sonata.” And with that he ran to the piano and promptly played it flawlessly himself.

Mozart with outfit given to him by Empress Maria Theresa

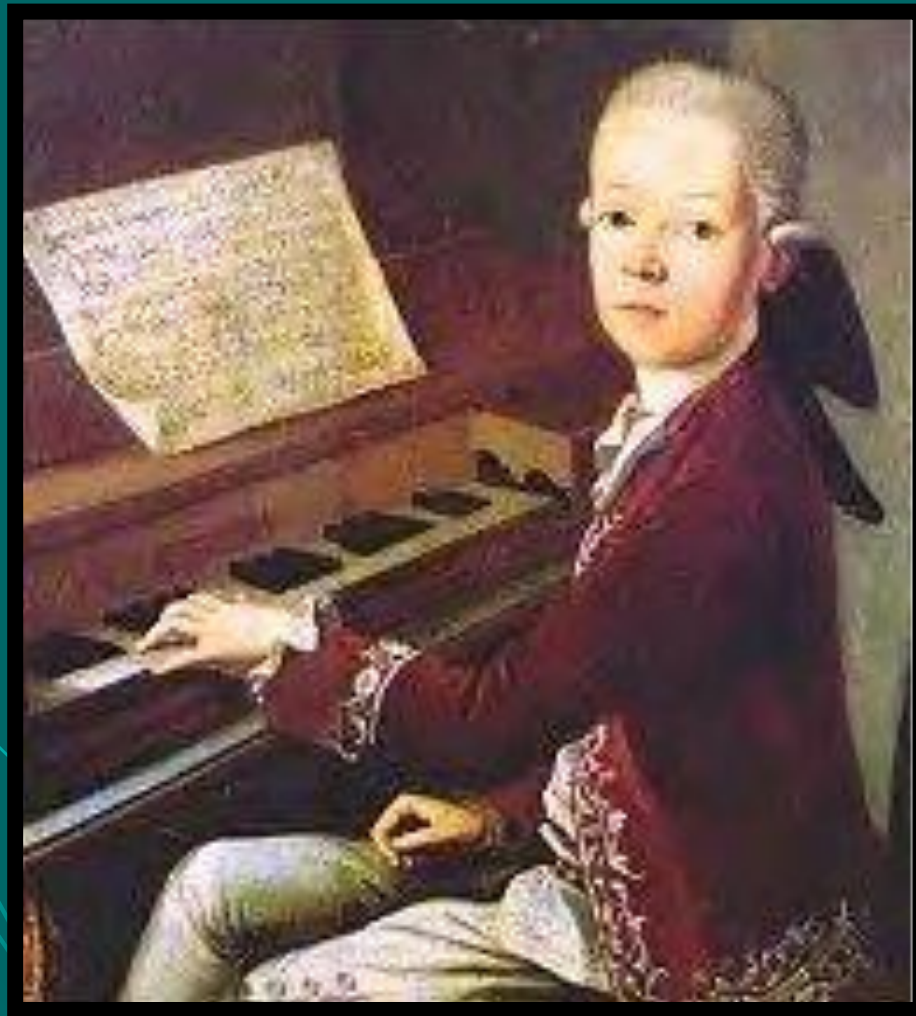


Wolfgang in gala costume, probably painted by Pietro Antonio Lorenzoni, 1763. The costume was a gift of the Empress Maria Theresa.

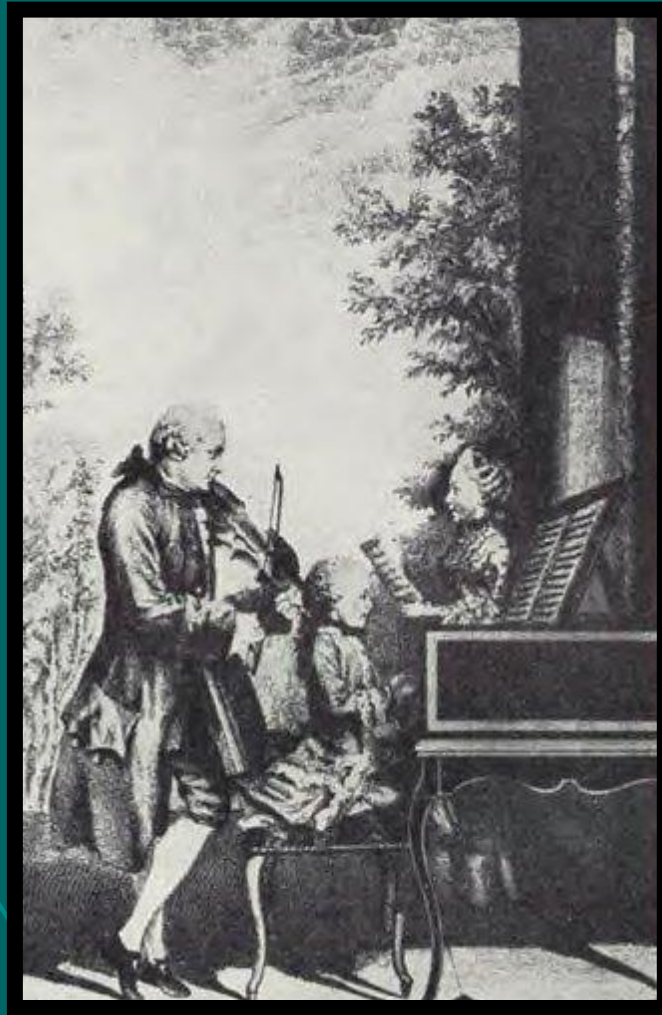
Mozart and Nannerl in outfits given to them by Empress Maria Theresa



The young Mozart at the clavier



Mozart, his father, and his sister, Nannerl, performing



Mozart, his father, and his sister, Nannerl, performing



The Mozart family portrait



Mozart performing

