

## Mozart's Later Years

composed some of his best-known works during this time, such as the *Piano Concerto No. 23* (1786), *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* (1787), and the operas *The Marriage of Figaro* (1786) and *Don Giovanni* (1787). He was also making enough money for his family to live in a fancy apartment. In 1784, Mozart met the famous composer Franz Joseph Haydn and they became friends. In 1787, Mozart also got a part-time job composing pieces for Emperor Joseph II.

By 1788, however, Mozart had gone into debt because he had been spending too much money. These were stressful years, until in 1790 when some wealthy **patrons** began supporting Mozart in return for a few compositions each year.

In 1781, Mozart fell very ill as he was working on a rather strange **commission** (a job to compose a new piece) for a **requiem** – music for a funeral. The person paying for the piece stayed anonymous because he was probably going to claim Mozart's work as his own and use it at the anniversary of his wife's death. Mozart did not finish the masterpiece, however. He died in 1791 at age 35. One of his students finished composing the piece the way he thought Mozart would have written it, so we can still hear and enjoy the piece today (Requiem Mass in D Minor, K. 626).



## The Story of MOZART

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Book by Joy Morin

## Mozart's Early Years

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in 1756 in the city of Salzburg, Austria. His parents were Leopold and Anna Maria.

By age 3, Mozart was picking out notes at the piano that sounded good to his ears. By age 5, he was composing his own music! Mozart's father was a musician, and realized Mozart was a **prodigy** – a child who has great musical talent.

Mozart had an older sister, Maria Anna, who they called Nannerl. Nannerl was a prodigy at the piano too, although she didn't compose her own music like Mozart.

Leopold taught his talented children impressive pieces to play. He took them on tour across Europe when Mozart was just 6 years old, to perform for royalty and wealthy people in countries like France, England, and Italy.

Everywhere they went, people were happy hear them play at the piano. Sometimes, they would ask Mozart to put a cloth over the keyboard to see if he could still play without seeing the keys. One time during a visit to Vienna, Mozart jumped into the empress' lap and gave her a kiss on the cheek!

As Mozart grew up, he continued to compose many wonderful pieces of music. He composed for the piano,

## Mozart's Growing-Up Years

voice, violin, and more. He wrote sonatas, symphonies, concertos, and operas. His favorite thing to compose was opera – and he was very good at it! Even today, audiences love seeing his operas performed because they are beautiful, funny, and entertaining.

At age 17, Mozart got a job as court musician for the Archbishop of Salzburg. He worked there from 1773-1777, until he quit in search of a job with more money and opportunities. After visiting many cities with no luck, Mozart's father got him his old job back in Salzburg in 1779.

In 1781, Mozart moved to Vienna and worked as a freelance pianist and composer. He found lodging with the Weber family, and fell in love with the third daughter, Costanze. They were married in 1782. They had six children, but only two of them lived beyond infancy. These were happy years for Mozart. He

Listen to Mozart's *Minuet in G*, K. 1/1e. It is a piece Mozart composed when he was just 5 years old.

