

## Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

### 1756-1791



*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was encouraged by his father to start playing the clavier at the age of 4. At 5, he was already composing, and at 10, he wrote his first symphony. He was already so good that he could play any song put in front of him on the clavier, violin, and organ! At age 14, he finished his first opera.*

*Mozart was a musical prodigy. His father guided Mozart's career and was touring concerts all over Europe. His father not only wanted Mozart to hold concerts, but also be familiar to all the various types of music popular in Europe.*

*When Mozart and his father weren't touring, they were hired by the Archbishop of Salzburg. Mozart was a violinist, and his father was the concert conductor. The Archbishop saw Mozart's talent and allowed him to take longer leaves of absence for concert tours. When the Archbishop died, the new leader fired Mozart, but kept his father as the conductor.*

*In 1781, Mozart moved to Vienna, Austria and became a full-time composer and music teacher. He soon realized that being a composer didn't make as much money as a performer. In 1782, he married his wife Constanze. She found it hard to live with so little money so she encouraged Mozart to become a court musician.*

*In 1787, Mozart took a job as the private musician of the emperor of Austria. He got a small, but steady income. He continued playing in private gatherings, in the public, and at events hosted by the emperor. All his work at making new pieces overworked him to death. He died at the age of 35. He died a very poor musical genius.*

*Mozart wrote hundreds of pieces throughout his life, and never had any difficulty in getting his music performed or published. His pieces were loved all over Vienna and Europe. He is considered one of the greatest musical composers in the 18th century. His constant sleepless nights made him ill which caused his death. He wrote a huge amount of pieces in his short life.*

1. At what age did Mozart start playing the clavier? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is a clavier? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Was Mozart consider a musical prodigy (a greatly talented child)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. True or False: Mozart's music was widely performed and appreciated during his lifetime. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Bonus: Name a song composed by Mozart \_\_\_\_\_.