

Missed Lesson Worksheet – Mozart

Name _____ Date _____



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (baptized Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus) was born in Salzburg, Austria, in 1756. He was the second survivor out of six children. He began taking piano lessons from his musician father – Leopold, at the young age of 4.

Wolfgang (or Wolferl, as his family called him) was a child prodigy. He composed his first piece of music at age five; he had his first piece published when he was seven; and he wrote his first opera when he was twelve. By the time Wolfgang was 6, he was an excellent pianist and violinist. He and his sister Maria Anna (known as Nannerl) traveled

all over Europe performing for royalty.

Mozart travelled almost all the time. Before he was 25, he had visited most of the great cities of Europe.

In 1769, on a visit to Rome, history tells us that Mozart went to hear the Sistine choir sing; and, after returning home, he put the entire work on paper from memory.

When he grew up, Mozart moved to Vienna, and tried to earn a living as a pianist and composer. But he had a lot of trouble handling the fact that he was no longer a child prodigy. Mozart was still a musical genius, but after he stopped being a cute kid, people stopped making a big fuss over him. Back then, musicians were treated like servants, but Mozart did not, and could not think of himself as a servant.

Mozart moved to Vienna in 1782, where he married Constanze Weber. It was during their life together, (much of which was spent in poverty), that his three great operas - *Don Giovanni*, *The Magic Flute* and *The Marriage of Figaro*, were written. The writing of his last work *The Requiem* (Mass for the Dead) was never finished.

In 1785 he dedicated six string quartets to Joseph Haydn, a life-long friend of Mozart.

In July 1791, Mozart received a commission from an unknown patron (now known as Count F. von Walsegg) to write a Requiem. Mozart became convinced that he was writing the Requiem for his own funeral, and he died on December 5th of that year, leaving his student Sussmayr to complete the work.

Mozart died in Vienna when he was only 35 years old. He received a cheap funeral and was buried in an anonymous grave.

Today, he is still considered a genius of the Classical Era!

Please answer the following questions:

1) Where was Mozart born?

- a. Munich, Germany
- b. Vienna, Austria
- c. Paris, France
- d. Salzburg, Austria

2) At what age did Mozart begin composing?

- a. 4
- b. 5
- c. 3
- d. 7

3) At what age did Mozart write his first opera?

- a. 12
- b. 5
- c. 7
- d. 6

4) What nickname did Mozart's family use for him?

- a. Mozy
- b. Amadeus
- c. Wolfie
- d. Wolferl

5) What city did Mozart move to when he was older?

- a. Salzburg
- b. Frankfurt
- c. Vienna
- d. Rome

6) Why did Mozart have a difficult time as an adult?

- a. He was ill
- b. He had lost his family
- c. He was depressed
- d. He was no longer a child prodigy

7) Which opera was NOT written during Mozart's marriage to Constanze Weber?

- a. Don Giovanni
- b. Apollo and Hyacinth
- c. The Magic Flute
- d. The Marriage of Figaro

8) Which other famous composer did Mozart dedicate his string quartets to?

- a. Johann S. Bach
- b. Gustav Mahler
- c. Joseph Haydn
- d. Antonio Vivaldi

9) What about the Requiem did Mozart believe?

- a. That he was writing it for his own funeral
- b. That the Requiem was not worth his time
- c. That he was not well enough to write another large musical work
- d. That he would not write music for an unknown patron

10) Mozart died unexpectedly, and received a "poor man's" burial. What age did he die?

- a. 40
- b. 36
- c. 32
- d. 35