

QUAVER REPORT

Great Composers of the Classical Period

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



HIS LIFE AND MUSIC

- Born January 27, 1756 in Salzburg, Austria and died on December 5, 1791 at the age of 35.
- One of Mozart's most famous pieces was called *Eine Kleine Nacht Musik* (A Little Night Music).
- His music is very pure and clean.
- Mozart composed 41 symphonies and composed his first opera at age 12!

FUN FACTS

- He had an amazing memory for music. He once heard a piece of music that had never been written down called *Miserere* by Allegri. Mozart was so captivated by it that he couldn't get it out of his head. He woke up in the night and wrote it down - and there were nine separate parts...GENIUS!
- With your parents approval, watch the movie *Amadeus* for a look into Mozart's world.

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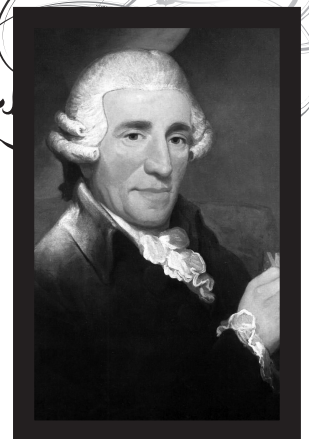
Joseph Haydn

HIS LIFE AND MUSIC

- Born March 31, 1732 and died May 31, 1809 in Austria.
- Haydn is often called the "Father of the Symphony" and the "Father of the String Quartet" because of his important contributions to these types of ensembles.
- A life-long resident of Austria, he spent much of his life as a court musician for a wealthy Hungarian family on their remote estate.
- Haydn was a close friend of **Mozart** and a teacher of **Beethoven**.
- He had two brothers, one a composer and the other a singer.

FUN FACTS

- Haydn had a robust sense of humor, evident in his love of practical jokes and often apparent in his music. He had many friends and was very respected as a composer.
- Perhaps more than any other composer, Haydn's music is known for its humor. The most famous example is the sudden loud chord in the slow movement of his *Surprise* symphony which was used to wake up the audience who had fallen asleep.
- Mozart so loved Haydn that he wrote a set of six quartets, known as the Haydn Quartets.



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Ludwig van Beethoven

HIS LIFE AND MUSIC

- Born in Germany and baptized December 17, 1770 and died March 26, 1827.
- Beethoven's first music teacher was his father.
- Beethoven's first public performance was in March 1778 at the age of seven!
- One of Beethoven's most famous pieces is his *Fifth Symphony*. Listen to how the rhythm at the beginning repeats throughout the piece - over and over again.
- Beethoven led music into a new era as he started to put a lot of his own feelings into his music and made it more passionate.
- He increased the size of the orchestra as well. He even added a full choir and 4 solo singers in his *Ninth Symphony*.

FUN FACTS

- Beethoven was a musical genius who became deaf later in life and didn't hear many of his greatest works. He had to bite on a stick to feel the vibrations of his piano.
- Beethoven had lessons with Haydn, but Haydn didn't like his bad manners.

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More about the Classical Period...

- Preceded by the Baroque period and followed by the Romantic period, the music of the Classical period was less fancy. It was simpler and cleaner.
- All the great Classical composers lived in Europe.
- Music was in predictable 4 and 8 bar measures called **phrases**. Everything was well-organized into pretty melodies.
- Though George Washington was born during the Baroque Period in 1732 his greatest period of influence (1775 - 1799) was during the Classical Period of music.
- The harpsichord was replaced by the piano (originally known as the pianoforte).
- In the Classical Period, Europeans loved to go to coffee houses at night to talk - much like today's Starbucks!
- The first flush toilet was invented!
- The first camera was invented — but it took 8 hours to take the picture!

