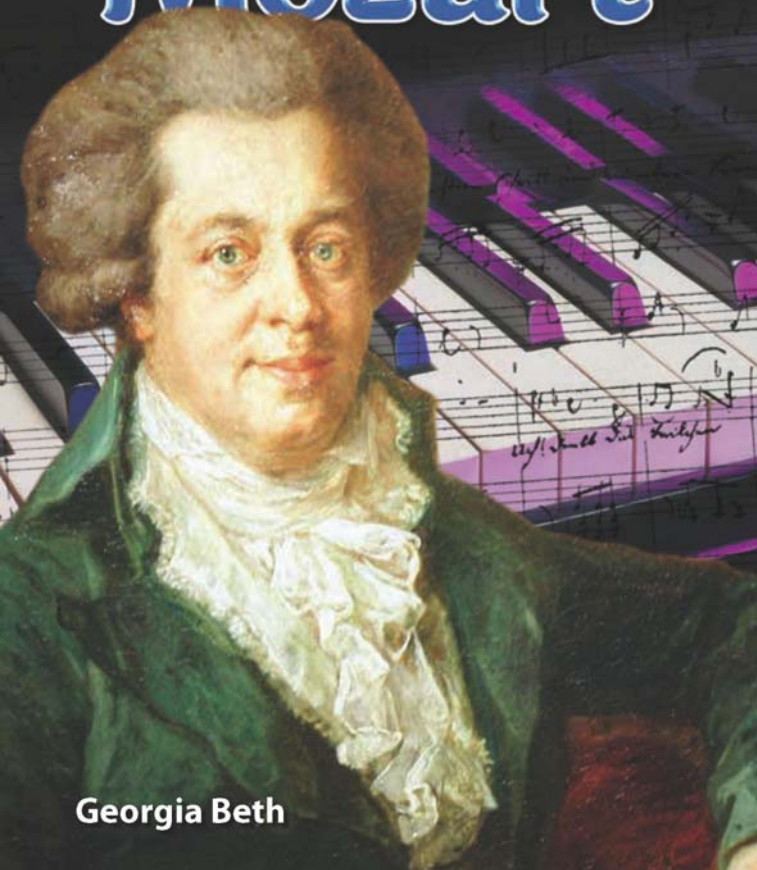


18th Century Superstar

Mozart



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Table of Contents

Cue the Orchestra.....	4
Prelude to Greatness.....	6
The Music Swells.....	14
Creative Interlude.....	18
Al Fine.....	26
Glossary.....	28
Index.....	29
Check It Out!.....	30
Try It!.....	31
About the Author.....	32

Cue the Orchestra

The lights dim. The conductor appears. The string players raise their bows in unison. A low note hums through the theater. The musicians. The singers. The audience. All eyes are on the conductor who is commanding every note.

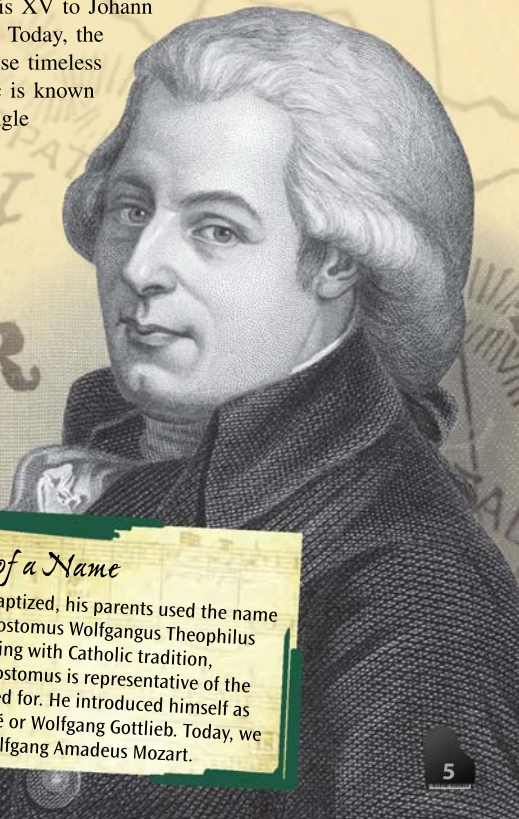
Modern audiences tend to prefer other types of music over classical. It has a reputation for being **cerebral** and challenging. But attending a classical music concert can be a dramatic experience, and the music can provoke powerful emotions in listeners. Today, the greatest classical composers are **revered** as geniuses. To their **contemporaries**, they were also superstars. The emotions they evoked in listeners inspired wild adoration at performances around the world. Audiences loved the beauty and emotion of their novel compositions. And their rich works continue to affect people centuries later.



Hitting the High Notes

In the eighteenth century, Austria was a European center of politics, power, wealth, and culture. A new middle class began to afford some of the luxuries that before were only available to the aristocracy. This included leisure time, traveling to foreign countries, wearing the latest fashions, and attending concerts.

Johann Chrysostom Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born January 27, 1756, in Salzburg, Austria. He would grow to be one of the greatest composers in history. He wrote music that has been called “incredibly inventive” and “adventurous” by critics. His work spanned a variety of genres and was played for audiences that included everyone from King Louis XV to Johann Christian Bach. Today, the man behind these timeless pieces of music is known simply by a single name: Mozart.



Nuances of a Name

When he was baptized, his parents used the name Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart. In keeping with Catholic tradition, Johannes Chrysostomus is representative of the saint he is named for. He introduced himself as Wolfgang Amadé or Wolfgang Gottlieb. Today, we know him as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

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