

History's Greatest Hits

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Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Showing the potential to be a musical genius, even as a toddler, child prodigy Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart jammed his way to megafame. Find out about the life of this musical mastermind.

THIS THING IS ALMOST AS BIG AS ME.



1756

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is born in Salzburg, Austria. His father teaches him to play the harpsichord, a piano-like instrument, at about age 3. Within a few years, the genius can write his own tunes and play the violin.

START

1762

The 6-year-old sets off on a music tour, performing with his family for royalty and other VIPs. He sometimes even plays the harpsichord blindfolded. After performing for the archduchess of Austria, the boy leaps into her lap and gives her a kiss!

HERE I COME!



OH MY WORD!

1768

12-year-old Mozart composes symphonies and his first opera, *La Finta Semplice*. Loosely translated, the title means "The Pretend Simpleton" in Italian.

IT'S MOZART MADNESS!



1770s

After hearing a musical performance at a church in Rome, Italy, Mozart jots down the entire 15-minute composition from memory. Word of this achievement reaches Pope Clement XIV, who awards him a medal.

1780s

Now living in Vienna, Austria, Mozart meets a composer named Antonio Salieri. Though the two artists get along, rumours later swirl that Salieri is a fierce rival — who eventually poisoned Mozart! (Freaky and totally untrue.)

I THINK I'VE BEEN POISONED... NOT.

1781

The musician pens an opera called *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. The piece makes Mozart ultrafamous throughout Europe.

1784

Mozart buys a pet starling—a type of singing bird—that supposedly learns to chirp his owner's music.



1787-1791

Mozart ends his career writing music for Emperors Joseph II and Leopold II. He also works on what would be one of his most famous operas, *The Magic Flute*. By the end of his life, Mozart could boast more than 600 musical pieces. Now that's a long playlist.