
Mozart and Schubert

1. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Franz Peter Schubert are two huge names in the world of classical music. But how much do you know about them? Do the quiz and find out.

If your answer is *Mozart*, write **M** next to the statement. If your answer is *Schubert*, write **S** and if your answer is *Both of them*, write **B**.

1. He was born and died in Vienna.
2. His talent was recognised from an early age.
3. He was a student of composer Antonio Salieri.
4. He died before he reached 36.
5. He was famous in his lifetime.
6. He wrote many songs, including *Ave Maria*.
7. He was married with two children.
8. He earned a lot of money from his music.
9. He died a poor man.
10. His memorial is in Zentralfriedhof (the largest cemetery), in Vienna.
11. He was a member of the secret society, the Freemasons.
12. He was a great fan of the composer Beethoven.
13. He was part of the movement called the Viennese School.
14. He worked as a schoolteacher.
15. He was a composer of the Classical Era (1750-1820).

2. Work in pairs. Read one half of Worksheet B. Then work together with your partner to check your answers to the quiz.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

was born in Salzburg on January 27th, 1756. His father, a musician and composer, saw that his son had a great talent. At the age of three, young Wolfgang could play tunes on the piano by ear, and by the age of six he was composing. His father took him on tour to play in the courts of Europe from the age of six. He became famous, but as he grew from boy to man he remained childish despite his musical genius.

In 1781, at the age of 25, he moved to Vienna. The following year he gave his first big concert and was a huge success. In the same year he married Constanze Weber. Over the next eight years they had six children but only two survived.

In 1784 Mozart joined the Freemasons. The period between 1784 and 1791 saw Mozart at his busiest. Although he made a lot of money from his music, he and his wife lived beyond their means and were always running out of money. His health suffered due to his increased workload and he died of kidney failure in Vienna on December 5th, 1791. He died poor and was buried in an unmarked grave. Many years later a memorial was erected in the Zentralfriedhof (the largest cemetery) in Vienna. There have been stories that he was murdered by composer Antonio Salieri (1750-1825) who was jealous of Mozart's genius. It seems unlikely as not only was Salieri a great fan of Mozart's, he also taught one of Mozart's sons. Another fan of Mozart's was Beethoven (1770-1827), a composer, like Mozart, of the Classical Era (1750-1820). Both Mozart and Beethoven belong to a group of composers known as the Viennese School.



Franz Peter Schubert



was a composer from the Classical Era (1750-1820) who belonged to a group of composers known as the Viennese School. Schubert's great gift was his poetry, and his many songs, like *Ave Maria*, remain as fresh today as when they were first written. He was born in Vienna on January 31st, 1797. In 1808, at the age of 11, he passed an audition for the Imperial Chapel and entered the Stadtkonvit under the direction of the composer Antonio Salieri (1750-1825). Salieri recognised young Schubert's talent and remained his teacher long after Schubert had left the Stadtkonvit. At the age of 16 Schubert composed his first symphony. However, rather than rely on his music to provide him with an income, he trained as a teacher, like his father. While he taught, he continued composing, writing 600 songs, five symphonies and two masses by the time he was 20. The

following year Schubert left teaching and decided to become a freelance musician. Although his output was extensive, he didn't really earn much money from it. He relied on his close circle of well-connected friends to provide food and accommodation. At the time of his death, only less than 100 of his 1,000 songs had been published. The rest were not published until more than 40 years after his death.

Schubert was a great fan of the composer Beethoven (1770-1827), and carried a torch at the funeral of the great man, in 1827. 10,000 people gathered at Beethoven's funeral, whereas only a handful were in the same place one year later to bury Franz Schubert who, at 31 years old, had died of typhoid. Schubert's memorial is next to Beethoven's in the Zentralfriedhof in Vienna.