

MOZART REQUIEM



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart aka 'Wolferl'

WOLFERL AND NANNERL

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in the winter of 1756 born in Austria. He had an older sister named Maria Anna Mozart. Their family called them 'Wolferl' and 'Nannerl'. Both children learned to play the violin and the piano from their father. They were so talented that they performed as child prodigies before the royal families all across Europe.

DID YOU KNOW?

In those days, a musical career was not considered suitable for a woman. So after the age of 13, Nannerl was no longer allowed to perform. She continued to play the harpsichord and the fortepiano. But she could no longer play her father's violin, because it was thought to be 'no instrument for women'. Strange, eh? Luckily, people think very differently about this these days.



THE LIFE OF MOZART

When he was a bit older, Wolfgang moved to Vienna and tried to earn a living as a composer and pianist. That was not so easy, since he was no longer a cute child prodigy and so people were less interested in him. Musicians were treated as servants in those days, and Mozart didn't care for that at all. He was also fed up with always having to play for rich people. I would really have rather make poor people happy with his music.

In his short life, he wrote a great many musical works, including operas, symphonies, concertos, Masses, etc.

At the age of 35, he died poor and sick and was buried in a paupers' grave. No one attended his funeral.

Today, Mozart is world famous and is still considered a musical genius!



Maria Anna Mozart aka 'Nannerl'

A QUESTION

If Mozart were to die today, how many people do you think would attend his funeral?

.....



REQUIEM

A Requiem is a musical setting of the Catholic Mass for the dead. The first line of the Latin text is 'Requiem æternam dona eis'. This means 'Given them eternal rest'. So 'requiem' means rest.



ACTIVITY: TRANSLATE!

The following are a few bits of the Latin text of the requiem. Connect the me with the right translation.

LACRIMOSA
SANCTUS
LUX AETERNA
IN PARADISUM
RECORDARE
COELI ET TERRA

HEAVEN AND EARTH
TEARFUL
IN PARADISE
REMEMBER
ETERNAL LIGHT
HOLY



ACTIVITY: QUESTIONS ABOUT GRIEF

Have you ever felt grief when you lost someone?

.....

Who did you have to say goodbye to?

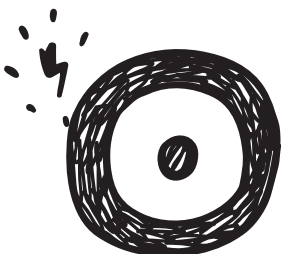
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What did you do to say goodbye?

.....

What makes you feel better if you feel grief?

.....



MOZART'S REQUIEM

Mozart composed a Requiem on his deathbed. He was not able to finish writing it before he died.

One of his pupils, Franz Xaver Süssmayr, took it upon himself to finish it.

He tried to make the rest of the work sound as much as possible as it would if Mozart himself had written it.



ACTIVITY: LISTEN & FEEL!



Listen to the first movement of Mozart's Requiem. Close your eyes and take in the music. What do you feel? Circle all the feelings that fit what you feel when listening to this music.

Love - Fear - Joy - Anger - Grief - Surprise - Shame - Disgust

Music

THE CHOIR

Besides the orchestra, you also hear a choir in this work. A choir is made up of 4 groups of singers:

- Sopranos: high women's voices (yellow)
- Altos: low women's voices (red)
- Tenors: high men's voices (blue)
- Basses: low men's voices (green)



ACTIVITY: LISTEN AND TWIRL!



Take a sheet of paper and a green, yellow, red and blue coloured pencil. In the next fragment of Mozart's Requiem, you hear the different voices separately. Start with the green pencil and draw a winding line on the paper as long as the bass continues to sing. When the voice changes, change colours and continue drawing.



ACTIVITY: WRITE YOUR OWN REQUIEM!

First, think about who you would like to write a requiem for. If you can't think of anyone, you can write one for Mozart. Now write a text (around 4 lines) in the language of your choice. Or you can write in an imaginary language. Think about the feelings you would like to express, in your musical work. Now sing your sentences in several different ways; which words will you sing high, low, fast, slowly, etc.?



For whom:

.....

Your text:

.....

.....

.....

What feelings:

.....

AND NOW, TIME TO SING!



DID YOU KNOW?

Mozart was very fond of humour. He loved to laugh and enjoyed adding jokes to his compositions. Like in the piece titled 'A musical joke': at the end, all the instruments deliberately play false notes.



Have fun listening during the streaming!