

Franz Joseph Haydn

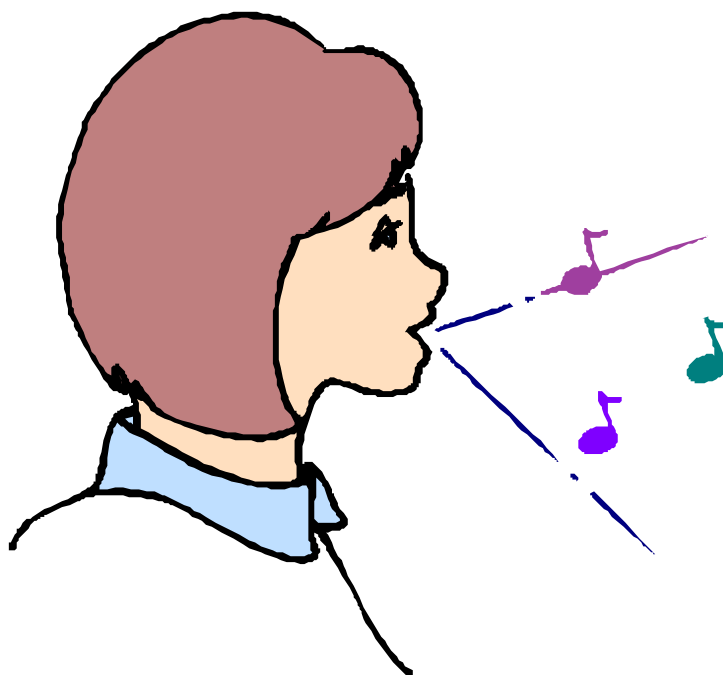


Born: March 31, 1736

Died: May 31, 1809



Franz Joseph Haydn was the most famous **composer** of his time. He helped develop new musical forms, like the **string quartet** and the **symphony**. In fact, even though he didn't invent it, **Haydn** is known as the “Father of the **Symphony**.”



Haydn was born in the tiny **Austrian** town of Rohrau, where his father made huge wooden carts and wagonwheels. His mother was a cook. When he was 8, Joseph (he didn't go by Franz) went to **Vienna** to sing in the choir at St. Stephen's Cathedral, and to attend the choir school. His younger brother Michael joined him a short time later. Joseph could never resist a playing a joke, which got him in trouble at school. One time he snipped off the ponytail of the boy who sat in front of him. His teacher did not think it was very funny. Since Michael Haydn was much better behaved than his brother, everyone thought he would be the more successful **musician**. Wrong!



After Joseph's voice changed, he supported himself by playing and teaching the **organ** and **harpsichord**. He also began to **compose** his own music. At first, Haydn struggled to earn a living as a **composer**. Then, he got a job with a rich, powerful family named Esterhazy. It was Haydn's job to write music for the Esterhazy princes, and to conduct their **orchestra**. Haydn composed **symphonies**, **operas**, **string quartets**, and all kinds of other music for performance at the Esterhazy court.



Joseph is often referred to as “Papa” Haydn. Although he never had children, people called him “Papa” because he was always so likeable and charming. Part of his charm was his sense of humor.

During the time that he was composing for the Esterhazy family it was fashionable for the Lords and Ladies of the court to enjoy a grand meal before attending a concert. By the time the music began, many of them would doze off. Haydn was tired too. He was tired of composing music for people who slept through it. He decided to play a joke on them. He wrote a symphony that had soft and soothing sections to lull his audience to sleep. Once they had time to nap, he wrote in a very loud and sudden chord. The grand Ladies and Lords of the Court woke up quickly! Everyone loved his musical joke. That is why the symphony is named the “Surprise” symphony.



Haydn was also a good businessman. **Music publishing** made him and his music famous all over **Europe**. After he retired from working for the Esterhazy family, Haydn made two very successful trips to **England**, where **audiences** at concerts of his music treated him like a superstar.

Sight Words:

Arrange

Audience

Choir

Composer

Compose

Composition

England

Europe

Harpsichord

Haydn, Franz Joseph

Musician

Music Publisher

Music Teacher

Opera

Orchestra

Organ

Piano

String Quartet

Symphony

Vienna

Glossary

Arrange: Rewriting music that was originally written for a given instrument or group of instruments and changing it to another instrument or group of instruments. For example, an arranger could take a piece of music that was written for the piano and change it so a small orchestra could play it.

Audience: A group of spectators who are actively listening to a musical or theatrical event.

Choir: A group of singers who perform together.

Composer: A person who writes music.

Compose: To create and write a piece of music.

England: the largest and most populated part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It borders Wales and the Irish Sea on the west and Scotland on the north.

Europe: 6th largest continent. It is actually a large peninsula of the great Eurasian land mass. You can find a map on the last page of this book.

Harpsichord: A keyboard instrument that was an ancestor of the piano. When the keys are pressed, the strings are plucked by quills. Because of this, it is nearly impossible to make changes in dynamics playing the harpsichord.

Haydn, Franz Joseph: Franz Joseph Haydn was the most famous composer of his time. He helped develop new musical forms, like the string quartet and the symphony. In fact, even though he didn't invent it, Haydn is known as the "Father of the Symphony."

Musician: A person who makes music.

Music Publisher: a person or company whose business is the publishing of music and music books.

Music Teacher: A person who teaches music

Opera: A stage work that combines music (solo singers, orchestra, and sometimes a chorus), costumes, and scenery to tell a story. Most operas are sung throughout, with no spoken lines.

Orchestra: A group of instrumentalists organized to perform music together. The sections of the modern orchestra include instruments in the string, brass, woodwind, and percussion families.

Orchestral Suite: An composition for orchestra consisting of several shorter pieces or movements.

Organ: A keyboard instrument on which sound is produced by forcing air through pipes. Each pipe sounds one tone, and is controlled by keyboards and pedals. Also called a pipe organ.

Piano: A stringed keyboard instrument. Its strings are struck by hammers which are connected to the keys. There are 88 keys on a modern piano, and each one is a different note. Originally called pianoforte, because it could play both soft (piano) and loud (forte).

String Quartet: A musical work for four stringed instruments, typically two violins, viola, and cello. The form usually consisted of three or four movements.

Symphony: A composition for orchestra, made up of (usually) four movements, each with a different mood and tempo.

Vienna: The capital city of the country of Austria.

