

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, another dimension

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On the Earth it doesn't exist so many men that deserve to be remembered and whose biographies should be studied and deserve special attention.

Here we could situate some scientists, writers, poets, kings, philosophers, painters, thinkers, actors, musicians, etc. All of them are artists, although at first sight it might not seem so, all of them gave their best to transform their passion into life, into something real and sometimes material.

Today, I would like to talk about a character that belongs to the last group I have mentioned, these are musicians. But he wasn't only a musician; he was a genius, a revolutionary, an innovator.



Leopold Mozart

He was born in Salzburg, 225 years ago, in the family of a Kapellmeister of Salzburg Archbishop, Leopold Mozart. Yes, it is **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** whose whole name I won't say because if I do it, you won't believe me that here could have existed a man with such a long name. So, let's start our immersion into 18 century, time of great characters.

Wolfgang Amadeus was born the 27 of January 1756 in and was the last child of Leopold Mozart, the second royal Kapellmeister, and Anna Maria Pertl. Mozart had a sister- Maria Anna called Nannerl, she was a big talent too as she played piano perfectly and always gave support to her brother. After Wolfgang's birth, Leopold left all his occupations to be free and can dedicate completely to his son in order to teach him music.



His objectives were accomplished and when **Wolfgang** was only 6 years old, he already could play skillfully the violin. Also he had a prodigious memory and to remember the music composition wasn't a problem to him. Definitely, all pointed that he wasn't a common child. That's why his father decided that everyone should know his son's skills, which made him cry more than one time, as Wolfgang showed his virtuosity with different instruments that hadn't been taught to him. In this way we can see the relationship between young and older Mozart were more than good, thing that will stamp their futures.

In 1763 the whole family started a great concert tour through Europe that lasted 3 years. They went to the most prestigious European courts: Munich, Mannheim, Paris, London,

Vienna (where little Mozart met Marie Antoinette, the future queen of France), London (he had a meeting with Johan Sebastian Bach whose symphonies influenced Wolfgang) and The Hague. A few years later, in 1769 he made another journey to Italia, where he improved as a musician and was accepted to the Philharmonic Academy of Bologna, a success that surprised many people as Mozart was very young to be accepted. Actually, every performing was an exhibition, everyone was amazed by this child, and it is believed that he used to play blindfolded. He and Leopold came back definitely in 1773. There they got to know about the death of their benefactor archbishop Schratzenbach. Then started other times, more difficult, as a new prince-archbishop came to power; his name was Hieronymus von Colloredo.

Mozart had a lot of work in native Salzburg; he was a favourite of the people and composed many musical pieces. Nevertheless, he wasn't satisfied with his situation in this town and tried to change it. One of the reasons of his dissatisfaction was his low salary (150 florins) also he needed a lot of time for his operas. Finally, the local theater was closed and Wolfgang had to look for another job. In order to it, he visited some cities, but this time with his mother, as Colloredo refused to Leopold's petition.



First, they travelled to Mannheim, where Mozart had an opportunity to work with the Mannheim Orchestra. Also, there, Wolfgang who was quite a womanizer, fell in love with **Aloysia Weber** who seemed not to answer his feelings. This incident marked his next years.

From Mannheim he went to Paris, but all unsuccessfully. Even more: during this journey his mother died. Meanwhile, Leopold was trying to find something promising. Finally, he did. He got a new job for his son and with new salary: 450 florins. Then, in Munich, Wolfgang had another meeting with Aloysia, this time converted into a famous singer and married.

In 1781 he had success with his opera "**Idomeneo, re di Creta**" and some months later Colloredo called him to be present in Joseph's II coronation, but he was displeased with archbishop's conduct who treated him like a simple servant. There were more events that caused his departure, in spite of Leopold's warnings. Eventually he ditched of that prison and decided to go to Vienna.

The first years there were characterized by good propositions of work and a big success after "**Die Entführung aus dem Serail**" (The Abduction from the Seraglio), a revolutionary opera wrote in German. And this happened in the times when Italian was an official language for opera and no other was accepted! In this way we see Mozart was a very strong person, as all the courts and people in general were laughing at him because of this decision, but he didn't go back at any moment. Definitely he was lucky in Vienna, as he stayed in the house of Weber who had have moved to the capital too. After a love failure with Aloysia he was upset, but Constanze, Aloysia's sister, had the power to inspire love anew. His father objected, he considered Constanze a simple crook

who wanted to take advantage of his son's triumph.

In 1783 **Constanze Weber** and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart married without a paternal consent. To demonstrate to his family that he had known how to choose, he released a new musical piece with Constanze as a main soprano. But Nannerl and Leopold never showed sympathy or concern to his wife as the same year, the newlyweds travelled to Salzburg. This visit was fruitless as the family members were just polite to Constanze.

On his return to Vienna, Wolfgang had a really good financial time, as he succeeded in many concerts. Even more, he adopted a luxurious mode of life: he bought an excellent fortepiano and a billiard table; he sent his son Karl Thomas to a very expensive boarding school and engaged servants.



One year later after his marriage, Mozart joined to the freemasonry that influenced his later and last years.

In 1786 Mozart had been working on "Figaro", a revolutionary play by Beaumarchais which provided some problems in France due to its content. For this reason it wasn't accepted by the emperor of Austria and it was quite difficult for the play not to be censored. This piece reflected very well the rebellious spirit of musician who always highly appreciated the human freedom.

The good run continued with "Don Giovanni" (Don Juan) which had an enormous success too. Then Mozart got the job of Royal Kammermusicus and always complained about not having enough salary. He earned only 800 florins per year. In 1889 the economic problems started and Mozart made some trips to get money but finally he had to borrow it from his friends.

His last year of life was 1891; ironically, this year his finance became much better. This same year was characterized by a very big musical production: he wrote "The magic Flute" which was filled with Masonic symbolism. His health started to deteriorate before the opera, he was losing the concentration and every time it was getting harder. Also he was completely dedicated to the Requiem that had him as a prisoner. This history about a man who came who Mozart's house with a proposition to write a Requiem is well known by everybody. The sensitive musician became obsessed with the idea that the mess was for himself. He was very nervous since Leopold died.

So, he died 5 of December in age of 35 years 8 months and 8 days. His funeral took place in St. Stephen's Cathedral where also his marriage had taken place. Mozart was buried with a Masonic ritual in a mass grave as they couldn't pay anything better. In this way the life of one of the greatest people was finished.