



NUGGET

Bro. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Summary: Mozart, his relationship to Freemasonry and its possible influence on his work.

Born in Salzburg on 27th January 1756, he was baptised in the name of Johannes Crysostomus Wolfgangus Mozart; now there is a name to conjure with! His father was a composer and violinist, and assistant Concert Master at the Salzburg Court. He was undoubtedly a child prodigy and the greatest melodic genius of his time, able to play the piano by the age of three, compose music from the age of five, and be a Concert Master by the age of thirteen.¹ During his remarkable short life, he composed over 600 works, many of which were modern and innovative.² Mozart's later works include four of his most famous Operas; *The Marriage of Figaro*; *Don Giovanni*; *Così fan Tutti*; and of course, *The Magic Flute*: One of the most celebrated operas in history.

Following a disagreement with his benefactor, the Archbishop of Salzburg, he left Salzburg and moved to Vienna. There he met and married Constanza Weber in 1782, with whom he had two children, Karl and Franz Xavier. They all enjoyed a loving and affectionate family life together.

In an attempt to rid him of the unhappiness which began to threaten his career, he broke away from the Roman Catholic Church and embraced Freemasonry. In 1784, Mozart was Initiated into The Lodge of True Harmony of Spirits, later joined The Lodge of Charity, and finally The Lodge of New Crowned Hope. Within twelve months of his own Initiation he proposed his own father into his Lodge, New Crowned Hope. This was followed by his introduction of his friend Joseph Hayden into The Craft. Mozart, the supreme musical genius of the Age of Enlightenment, saw Freemasonry as an essential part of his life in Vienna. Arguably for the last and most productive seven years of his short career, the Craft was the pivot around which his social and cultural life revolved.



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
by Barbara Krafft (1819) [Public domain]

Of all composers, Mozart appears to be the one who has written the most on all types of Masonic subjects. His prolific work covers a wide range of matters, from ritual-music, compositions depicting personal feelings of the Brotherhood, music dedicated to the consecration of Masonic Lodges, to Masonic funerals, and finally, at almost the end of his life, his incomplete Requiem. No doubt one of the greatest Masonic works ever written is Mozart's *The Magic Flute*;³ an act of fidelity for Freemasonry and its ideals of freedom and forbearance at a time when it was under threat from both Church and State.⁴ Its premiere, which took the world by storm, took place on 30th September 1791, some sixty-six days before his passing to 'The Grand Lodge Above', at the age of thirty-five. It was perhaps the '*last sad tribute to departed merit*'. Mozart died shortly after midnight on 5th December 1791 from acute Rheumatic Fever.

The foremost Masonic Research Lodge in Austria is known as The Sarastro Club. It takes its name from the principal character in *The Magic Flute* the priest of the Temple of Isis. Their motto is;

'To live in the hearts of those we leave behind, is not to die.'

Endnotes

1. At the age of three he began to play the piano; At five he started to compose minuets; Aged seven he began a concert tour of Europe; At eight he wrote his first three symphonies, and met Johann Sabastian Bach; At the age of thirteen he was appointed Concert Master to the orchestra of The Archbishop of Salzburg; By his mid teenage years, he had mastered the piano, violin and harpsichord; By fourteen he had written three operas; In 1770 during his visit to Rome he attended the performance of Allegri's *Misère*, afterwards he asked for a copy of the score; this was refused - so he wrote down the whole musical score from memory!
2. Which included: 21 Works of Opera; 15 Religious Masses; 50 Symphonies; 25 Piano Concertos; 12 Violin Concertos; 27 Concert Arias; 17 Piano Sonatas; 26 String Quartets; Many other Short Sacred Works.
3. The sub-title to the opera is: *Love, Forgiveness, Tolerance and the Brotherhood of Man*, and behind this the aria *Oh Isis and Osiris*, which represents the story of *The Magic Flute*, lies the ancient Egyptian Legend which conveys the message of the triumph of Good over Evil and Life Everlasting. It bears a remarkable and striking similarity with the basis of our Legend of Hiram Abiff.
4. In 1791, Austria like so many countries in Europe, was being subjected to the conventions of The Church of Rome, who had passed resolutions opposing all secret societies. Pastors were encouraged to take an active opposition to Freemasonry. It was in the light of this situation that in 1795 that Freemasonry was prohibited in Austria. Önnersfors, Andreas, (2011), *Freemasonry and civil society: reform of manners and the Journal für Freymaurer* (1784–1786), [10.13140/2.1.1602.2088](https://doi.org/10.13140/2.1.1602.2088).
5. Harper, Paul, Famous Freemasons - A Prologue, <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/mod/resource/view.php?id=2084>



Recommended use of Nuggets

Nuggets offer a short, simple and readily absorbed means of progressing Masonic knowledge and an easy way to introduce learning to Lodges and Chapters. It is hoped that they will become a regular feature of Lodge and Chapter meetings as well as a source for private-study.

Nuggets can be included as an item in the summons and read at most Lodge/Chapter meetings. They can be:

Read by either a new or an experienced Mason with the minimum of preparation and practice; though ideally, they need to be read a few times beforehand.

Themed with the meeting or activity.

Used to initiate a discussion within a Lodge/Chapter, LOI/COI, or group.

Read at home and shared as a topic for a future discussion.

Used as a focus for an unplanned, informal discussion.

*Note: All biblical passages are taken from the Authorized King James version unless otherwise specified.

For further papers and other learning materials visit *Solomon* at <http://solomon.ugle.org.uk>

Acknowledgement:

UGLE gratefully acknowledges Ray Hollins as the compiler and editor of this document, which is an extract from his series of ten volumes, collectively titled 'A Daily Advancement in Masonic Knowledge' and for his permission to publish it in this form.

He wishes to acknowledge the assistance of RW Bro Richard Fletcher, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Vermont in The United States of America, and the Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA) who gave their permission for the use of a wealth of interesting and informative material within their publications known as 'Short Talk Bulletins' and MSANA references are made at the end of each Short Talk in full copyright acknowledgement. Each 'Short Talk' has been carefully re-written by WBro Hollins PAGDC, to provide supplementary information from a wide variety of sources used for the benefit of Freemasonry in general.

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