

Franz Joseph Haydn

Frahntz Yo'-zef Hide'-n



born
March 31, 1732
Rohrau, Austria

died
May 31, 1809
Vienna, Austria

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**Whoever studies
music, let his daily
bread be Haydn.**

*—Jean Ingres
(1780-1867)*

”

A composer of the Classical era.

Franz Joseph Haydn was the second of twelve children. His family was quite poor. When Franz was six, his parents sent him to live with a family relative, Johann Frankh, in Hainburg, Austria. Mr. Frankh was a private music teacher and gave Franz lessons on the harpsichord, violin, and in music harmony and theory. In Hainburg, young Franz sang in a church boychoir and eventually became the chief soloist for the group.

When Franz turned 17 and became too old for the boychoir, he made a living playing harpsichord and violin. He also began composing and completed his first mass at age 19, his first **string quartet** at 23, and his first **symphony** at 27.

He married his wife, Anna, in 1760. They separated a few years later but Haydn continued to support Anna for the rest of her life.

In 1761 (age 29), he became the assistant choirmaster to Prince Paul Esterhazy, an Austrian prince who was a great admirer of music. Haydn eventually became a full-time **court musician** and lived and worked in the Esterhazy palace for 29 years, until the death of the prince in 1790. His daily routine required him to provide music for family concerts, private performances, and worship services. The prince also had an excellent orchestra which regularly performed Haydn's compositions.

Living in the palace, Haydn was cut off from the musical centers of Europe and, except for a few brief trips to Vienna, Austria, was not exposed to the music of other composers. He therefore developed his own style of music. He was not influenced by other composers with the exception of **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**, who Haydn met in 1781. When they met, Haydn was 49 and Mozart was 25. Nevertheless, the older Haydn was influenced by the younger Mozart.

In 1791, after the death of Prince Esterhazy, Haydn traveled to London where he was highly regarded by British royalty. Here he met **George Frideric Handel** and was much impressed with Handel's **oratorios**. In 1795 he returned permanently to Austria and settled in Vienna where he wrote the *Emperor's Hymn*, which is now the national anthem of Austria. Inspired by Handel, Haydn also wrote several successful oratorios.

By his mid-60s, Haydn's health was failing. For the last 10 years of his life he wrote little, although he frequently attended concert performances of his music.

Franz Joseph Haydn was a personable man, generous and honorable. He was much admired by royalty throughout Europe. He wrote a large number of works and was very industrious as a composer. He was fortunate to have a **patron**, Prince Esterhazy, who gave him the freedom to write music for a variety of occasions. However, it was not until Haydn was over 40 that his music was successful in concert halls outside the Esterhazy palace.

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Franz Joseph Haydn

What I composed	Orchestra	Concerto	Chamber Music	Keyboard	Opera	Theater/Film	Ballet	Band	Choral	Vocal Solos
Franz Joseph Haydn	>	>	>	>	>				>	>

Haydn Factoids:

- Haydn composed over 175 pieces for the baryton, a stringed instrument played with a bow which had as many as 40 strings. The baryton was the only instrument his patron, Prince Esterhazy, could play.
- **Ludwig van Beethoven** was a student of Haydn.
- Although he never had children of his own, Haydn was often called Papa Haydn because of his jolly personality.
- According to Haydn, he was not influenced by any other composer except **Mozart**. He said, "There was no one near to confuse me, so I was forced to become more original."

1732: Birth of Franz Joseph Haydn; birth of George Washington.

1742: **George Frideric Handel's** *Messiah* first performed in Dublin, Ireland.

1752: Benjamin Franklin proves that lightning is electricity.

1760: George III crowned King of England.

1770: James Cook discovers east coast of Australia.

1775: American Revolution begins.

1783: **Wolfgang Mozart** composes Mass in C minor.

1802: **Ludwig van Beethoven** composes Symphony No. 2 in D Major.

1809: Death of Franz Joseph Haydn; James Madison is inaugurated as 4th President of U.S.

What in the world is happening?

Listen!

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) Symphony in G Major, No. 94 (*Surprise*), Second Movement



Haydn wrote more music in his lifetime than even he could remember. Notice the number of this symphony: 94! He wrote a grand total of 104. When he was visiting in London (age 59-63) he was introduced to King George III who said, "You have composed a great deal, Dr. Haydn," and Haydn replied, "Yes, Sire, more perhaps, than was wise!"

He wrote the *Surprise* Symphony while in London, England, and made use of the large orchestra of 41 players at his disposal. At this time, Haydn was employed by Prince Esterhazy of Austria, and his works were most often performed at the palace for entertainment at small dinner parties. He was accustomed to writing for strings alone, without any brass or woodwind instruments. But the audiences of London were more sophisticated, so Haydn added brass and woodwinds to his orchestration for the *Surprise* symphony. The London audiences loved it.

The surprise, which gives this symphony its title, is found in this movement. At the very beginning the music is peaceful, melodic and pianissimo (very soft). Then, suddenly a chord explodes from the full orchestra, and this is a surprise to the listener. When this very loud "surprise" chord is played, can you also hear the timpani being played? The timpani, sometimes called a kettle drum, is part of the percussion section.

- What instrument is playing the melody (first theme) at the very beginning?
- Raise your hand when you hear the second theme.

TIMING

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**I tell you on my word
as an honest man
that your son is the
greatest composer I
have ever heard of.**

**—Franz Joseph Haydn,
to Leopold Mozart,
the father of Wolfgang
Amadeus Mozart.**

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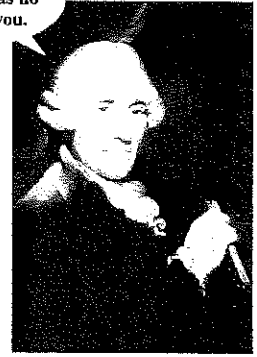
- :01 The opening melody is played in a detached manner on low and medium low string instruments. When analyzing a piece of music, musicians will refer to the opening melody as the "A" melody or the "A" theme. Subsequent melodies will be labeled "B," "C," "D," and so on.
- :19 The opening melody is repeated, softer than before.
- :37 SURPRISE! A loud chord is suddenly heard. This sudden, loud chord is what caused people to refer to this symphony as the "Surprise" symphony. A second melody begins here. It is a smoother melody, contrasting with the detached opening melody, but ends similarly to the "A" melody
- :58 The woodwind instruments enter. Listen in particular for the flutes and oboe.
- 1:17 More instruments enter on the "A" melody. The violins play a counter-melody.
- 1:36 The "A" melody repeats with the violin counter-melody.
- 1:54 The "B" melody (the theme first played at :37) is heard again, this time with a counter-melody.

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Review!

This review should come as no surprise to you.



Franz Joseph Haydn

Name _____

Place the letter of the correct answer in the space provided.
For True/False questions, print True or False in the space provided.

- As a child, Haydn was a soloist in a _____.
A. band
B. boychoir
C. ballet company
D. string quartet
- True or False: Haydn began composing while still a teenager. _____
- Haydn worked as _____.
A. court musician
B. an opera singer
C. a band director
D. all of the above
- True or False: During the last ten years of his life, Haydn wrote a great deal of music. _____
- Haydn met or taught many other composers, including _____.
A. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
B. Ludwig van Beethoven
C. George Frideric Handel
D. all of the above
- As a composer, Haydn was influenced by _____.
A. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
B. Ludwig van Beethoven
C. George Frideric Handel
D. none of the above
- When Haydn worked for Prince Esterhazy, which of the following was not a part of his duties? _____.
A. compose music for family concerts
B. compose music for the Prince's military band
C. compose music for private performances
D. compose music for church services
- The Listening Example, Haydn's Symphony No. 4, is also known as _____.
A. the *Timpani* Symphony
B. the *Surprise* Symphony
C. the *Oratorio* Symphony
D. the *Baryton* Symphony
- True or False: Another name for timpani is kettle drum. _____
- In analyzing a piece of music, musicians refer to the main melody as _____.
A. the A melody
B. the grand melody
C. the Number One melody
D. the orchestra melody

Bonus:

What was the only instrument Haydn's patron, Prince Esterhazy could play?

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