



Meet  
**WOLFGANG  
MOZART**  
An eStory

INSPIRATIONAL STORIES



**DR CHARLES MARGERISON**  
The Amazing People Club®

Bio  Views®

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# Life Stories of Amazing People

Welcome to this eStory, which is part of an extensive book and audio series from The Amazing People Club. The story is written in the form of a BioView®, which is a short name for a biographical interview.

A BioView® is a new concept that reveals amazing stories, as if the person has given an interview about their life. Each of the stories can normally be read in around five to ten minutes and is based on the known facts of the individual's life, alongside what they may have felt about their experiences.

BioViews® provide an easy way of learning about people who made major contributions to our world. The unique format and flow enables each person's story to come alive, as if it is being personally told to you. Each of the stories in the series reflects the individual's interests, emotions and passions, as well as their accomplishments.

The amazing people in the series discovered and developed special talents. In doing so, they focused on making significant contributions in times when they had less resources and opportunities than we have today. Their stories show what can be done if one tries.

To what extent do you feel you are using your own time and talents to the best? We hope that the efforts and performances of those in this series will inspire you to further develop your own abilities and achievements.

The career notes at the end provide helpful support information. We trust that you will enjoy this eStory as it can provide ideas and inspiration for your own life's journey. To explore this book and audio series, please visit [www.amazingpeopleclub.com](http://www.amazingpeopleclub.com)

**Bio**  **Views**®

eStory

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# Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



1756 1791

I always felt my time on Earth might be short  
My parents had seven children  
Five of my brothers and sisters died during infancy  
My mother and father offered prayers, but they were to no avail  
Then hope, as I was born on January 27<sup>th</sup> 1756  
Their seventh and last child  
Disease was rife in Salzburg and medical facilities lacking  
Only my sister Nannerl and I were spared by the Almighty  
Was it from the Almighty that I was given a special gift?  
Music was my first language  
The language of Heaven  
At four years of age, I could play the harpsichord  
I wrote my first *scherzo* three days before I was five years old  
Then, I gave my first public concert aged six  
It all seemed to be so natural to my way of thinking  
My father, Leopold, was a court musician  
He arranged for me to play to royalty  
Nannerl, four years older than me, was also a gifted musician  
A whirlwind life of travel and concerts followed  
Father promoted us with great flair  
The music tours became part of our family life  
We toured France, Germany, Austria, England, Holland and Italy  
Learning the languages *en route*  
Nannerl and I entertained, while Father managed the business  
It started in January 1762, when Father took us to Munich  
A long, cold and bumpy journey over rain-filled tracks  
Icy winds cut through my clothes, making me shiver and shake  
Snow slowed our travel  
Often, we stayed at cheap and damp lodgings  
After the long journey, we arrived in Munich  
We were there for most of the year and entertained people  
We missed Mother, who had stayed at home  
Next, Father took us to Vienna to see the great city  
But, there was little time for childish things  
Music lessons and practice took up most of the days  
As travellers, we had few friends with whom to play in the street  
I was really happy when we set off for home  
Mother was pleased to see us after over a year away

But, it was only for six months  
In June 1763, Father organized another long tour  
The summer weather made the journey easier  
Birds, singing in the trees, made merry music  
Their sweet sounds gave me ideas  
*En route*, we stopped at many villages and towns  
Where possible, we played and earned some money  
On November 18<sup>th</sup>, after five months, we arrived in Paris  
I was seven years old and getting used to living in new places  
The accommodation *en route* again left a lot to be desired  
Often, we slept in our clothes  
Most days, after long journeys, we were exhausted  
The following year, we went to London and stayed for 15 months  
For a while, we lived in Ebury Street  
Whilst in London, I met the celebrated Johann Christian Bach  
During our stay, my father continued as my music tutor  
The rest, I imagined  
Hearing wonderful sounds, long before I wrote them down  
Indeed, finding a quill and some velum was often the hardest task  
Often, I would sit in a corner of our lodgings writing, as best I could  
Moving from place to place, it was hard to find somewhere to practice  
Father was continually seeking performance opportunities  
That is how he paid for our travel and accommodation  
We were a musical touring group, but often waiting around  
It took a lot of time to organize concerts and get support  
Most people in London made us welcome and I learnt some English  
However, in September 1765, we decided to return home  
During our stay, I had written a sonata and some symphonies  
A major problem was protecting my manuscripts  
Keeping them safe and dry on the journey was a major concern  
The rain and damp on our boat journey from England was the worst  
On arriving in Holland, our plans changed dramatically  
Nannerl became very ill with the dreaded typhus infection  
By November, I was also very ill with the same disease  
Days and nights, the fever was at high pitch  
Fearing we would join our brothers and sisters, we fought for our lives  
It took me a long time to recover and recommence writing  
Not until November 1766 were we able to return to Salzburg

Mother was delighted to see us all at home, after a three year absence  
She was most concerned to hear of our dreadful illnesses  
It had been a momentous time for all of us  
Still only ten years old, my horizons were much wider than before  
Seeing the grandeur of Paris and London and the squalor all around  
Travelling on dirt tracks, surviving in all types of weather  
Meeting the wealthy and the poor  
There was little time to make friends or attend school  
Yet, I had learned French, English and some Dutch *en route*  
My practical understanding of European geography was strong  
Most of all, I knew from experience about various cultures and countries  
Life was a musical voyage of discovery  
On my return, days were taken up practising various instruments  
Playing the violin and viola and the keyboard  
In the familiar surroundings of Salzburg, my work developed



The first of my piano concertos, *K37*, was written in 1767  
Concertos, symphonies and sacred cantatas followed  
People were surprised, as I was only 11 years of age  
By September of that year, we were travelling again  
The first stop was Vienna, but there was a smallpox epidemic  
Trying to out-run it, we left quickly  
We moved on to Brunn and Olmutz, but could not escape the disease  
Smallpox attacked both Nannerl and myself  
It was a nasty vicious illness that sapped our energy

Although I was sweating, my hands were cold  
For nine days, I became blind and my body had sores on it  
We were very fortunate to survive  
In many cases, it led to a painful death  
It left scars on my body  
Once we had recovered, Father took us to Vienna in 1768  
Emperor Joseph II and Maria Theresia wanted to meet us  
We met at their grand palace and I played some music for them  
They were delighted and showered praise on me  
I wondered who was honouring whom

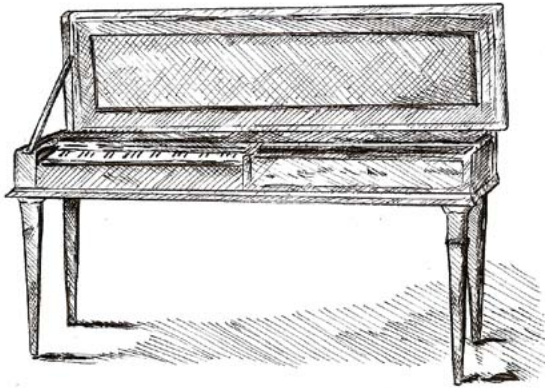


More performances followed, and compositions also  
Returning to Salzburg, in January 1769, gave me more time to compose  
Mother missed us terribly, as we had grown up in other cities  
It was not long, however, before Father organized another tour  
We departed for Italy, where most of the year 1770 was spent  
My first string quartet was written in Lodi  
Next, we were on the road again, heading for Rome  
Long hours on more bumpy roads and the hot sun burnt down  
By the time we arrived in Rome, we needed to rest and recover  
The Pope had heard of my work  
A private audience was arranged  
For one who followed the teachings of a poor man, he lived in splendour  
Certainly, he was surrounded by fine music and musicians

On one visit, I upset the Pope  
He invited us to hear some unpublished music at the Vatican  
After a performance, I rewrote the music from memory  
But, my unique contribution to life on Earth was original music  
On our return journey, we lived in Bologna for a while  
It enabled me to write an opera  
Heading north, during the winter, was not much fun  
Rain, wind and poor lodgings meant there was little time to write  
By early 1771, we arrived in Venice  
What an incredible city!  
The *piazzas*, the *ponts* and the palace  
Certainly a place to inspire artists and writers  
My concert there was well appreciated  
Then, another long journey to Salzburg, before returning to Milan  
My opera there was attended by Archduke Ferdinand  
Music was a passport to meeting people of influence  
However, I needed more time to write  
Salzburg was the place to do that  
Symphonies, sonatas and other works were created there  
As a result, in 1772, I was appointed as Konzertmeister at Salzburg  
It was an honour, as I was only 16 years of age  
After Christmas, Father and I left for Italy  
He was forever organizing another tour  
One wonders what would have happened if he had not done so  
The regular pattern of travel, followed by time to recuperate, continued  
Later, we went to Vienna again and met the Empress and Archbishop  
Still only 16 years of age, I realized that it was another great honour  
To Father, it was a way of making influential contacts  
In between, I wrote my piano concerto in D major, known as *K175*  
Further visits to Italy and then to Germany in 1774 and 1775 followed  
It was a hectic schedule  
By the age of 20, I had composed many classical works  
In 1776 came my *Piano Concerto No 6 in B flat*  
Music came to me at all times of the day  
Finding the time to write it down was difficult  
During the day and also at night, under candlelight, I wrote quickly  
In 1777, my mother travelled with me on a tour to Germany  
She was proud of my achievements and loved to hear me play



It was good to spend time with her, after so many years of being away  
The next year, we moved to Paris  
Tragically, it was there that she became ill  
The doctors said they had no cure and I was shocked to see her die  
It stopped me in my tracks, in more senses than one  
Once again, I was faced by my own mortality  
I had to leave Paris and went to Munich  
The Weber family, who I knew, invited me to stay at their home  
It was to be the start of a new chapter in my life  
They had four daughters, Josepha, Sophie, Constanze and Aloysia



Initially, I was attracted to Aloysia who, like her sisters, sang well  
She had other interests on her mind and married an actor, Joseph Lange  
During that time, Constanze and I started to enjoy each other's company  
She sang soprano and we had many happy musical evenings  
When her family moved to Vienna, in 1781, I went to live there  
While lodging with the Webers, Constanze and I started a relationship  
Her mother objected and I had to leave  
Therefore, I asked Constanze to marry me  
Her father was not keen on my proposal of marriage  
It did not stop our relationship and on August 4<sup>th</sup> 1782, we married  
The start of happiness and sadness  
We had six children, but four died during infancy  
Constanze, of course, suffered the loss of each one dreadfully

She was confined to bed for considerable periods of time  
We were both depressed and under stress, trying to save our family  
My health was waning with bronchitis, gum disease and arthritis  
Added to that, there were problems with money  
Maybe I was too generous in giving others money  
In one sense that was true, as I always thought I could earn more  
Eventually, I had to borrow, as the income from performances declined  
Nevertheless, we made the best of our time together  
The *Mass in C Minor* was written for Constanze  
We had less than nine years of marriage  
During that time, I felt more at ease to compose  
Time was spent with my family, rather than always travelling  
My sister Nannerl also married, in 1784  
In the following years, I wrote some of my best music  
In total, I enjoyed composing over 625 works, including 40 symphonies  
In addition, I wrote 22 operas, plus sonatas, trios and quartets  
Religious music, dances, marches, ballet, chamber music, all to please  
How many will be remembered?  
Maybe *The Marriage of Figaro* in 1786  
Perhaps the *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, written in 1787  
*Don Giovanni*, composed in 1788, and *Così fan Tutti* in 1790  
Also, *La Clemenza di Tito* and *The Magic Flute* from 1791  
It was then that I felt my time on this Earth may be near  
My energies slipped away as I wrote the *Requiem*  
I wondered if they would stand the test of time  
Many have asked how I wrote so much music  
Many of my best ideas came when I was travelling, or after a good meal  
Ideas came also at night, when not sleeping due to money worries  
I had musical talents, but I did not have a head for business  
By 1791, I was ill and struggling to breathe  
Worrying about the future of my children and wife Constanze  
My energy was spent  
I contracted a dreaded virus and had severe pains in my joints  
On November 20<sup>th</sup> I was confined to my bed  
For the next two weeks, my condition became worse  
Then, a thunderclap, louder than the sound of a giant drum  
It was December 5<sup>th</sup> 1791  
At only 35 years of age, it was the last note that I heard.

# Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

1756 1791

## Achievements

In 1756, Wolfgang was born the last of seven children in Salzburg, Austria, to Leopold and Anna Maria Pertl Mozart. Early on, Wolfgang expressed his musical talent. He and his sister, Nannerl, were the only children in the family to survive infancy. By the age of four, Wolfgang was able to play the harpsichord proficiently and he performed his first public concert at the age of six.

Wolfgang's father, Leopold, organized a musical tour of Europe in 1762 for Wolfgang and Nannerl. Leopold was their teacher, tour guide and impresario promoter of their musical shows. That tour lasted a year. A second tour followed six months later, in 1763. Whilst in London, Wolfgang met with Johann Bach. It was a great honour for a child of seven. Due to the extensive travel, Wolfgang became well educated and learnt to speak 15 different languages to varying levels.

By 1765, the family decided to return home. Unfortunately, both Wolfgang and Nannerl became seriously ill with typhus. It took until November 1766 for them to recover. They then set off for Salzburg. Wolfgang used the break from travelling to practise various musical instruments. He also started writing symphonies and concertos during that time.

In 1768, after their recovery from smallpox, the trio travelled to Vienna. There, they were honoured to perform for the Emperor and his wife. In December 1769, Wolfgang and his father travelled to Italy and this tour lasted until March 1771. Whilst in Rome, they were invited to perform privately for the Pope.

Wolfgang returned to Salzburg to compose. In 1772, he was offered the role of Concertmaster, which was a great honour for a young man of 16. By the age of 20, Wolfgang had been on many more tours of Europe with his father. Wolfgang composed when he could, often by candlelight, late at night.

In 1778, the family went travelling to Germany and France. Tragically, Wolfgang's mother passed away whilst in Paris. Wolfgang decided to return

to Germany, where he lived with the Weber family. There, he met his wife, Constanze, whom he married in 1782. They had six children, but sadly only two made it past infancy. While staying with the Weber family, Wolfgang used the time to write more music.

Wolfgang was known for his extravagant lifestyle and spendthrift attitude. He was often plagued by financial insecurity and illness. During his life, he suffered from smallpox, typhus, tonsillitis, bronchitis and pneumonia, as well as other illnesses. Considering he lived in a time when medicine was not readily available for all diseases, he was fortunate to have survived these health problems.

Wolfgang's works remain as influential today as they were when he first performed them. His compositions have brought pleasure to thousands of people over the centuries, and influenced hundreds of artists.

## **Recognition**

Wolfgang's most famous portrait is a posthumous painting created by Barbara Krafft in 1819.

The International Mozarteum Foundation was founded in 1880. It is dedicated to Wolfgang, and focuses on running concerts, as well as being dedicated to the upkeep of museums and academic research on the life and works of Wolfgang. The International Stiftung Mozarteum can be found in Salzburg, Austria, and is run by the Foundation.

Mozarthaus can be found in Vienna, and also in Salzburg, Austria. Both museums are home to original sheet music written by Wolfgang and have educational programs in place.

European Mozart Ways was founded in 2002 in Salzburg. It is an international network that connects the various cities and regions Mozart visited during his life. A plaque dedicated to Wolfgang and his father is located at the front of the Hauenschilds' house in the Czech Republic, in honour of the family's stay there.

The year 2006 was the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wolfgang's birthday. Many celebrations were held around Austria. Several international medals in honour of Wolfgang exist, including the Mozart Medals, which are administered jointly by the International Mozarteum Foundation and the United Nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

In total, Wolfgang composed over 625 works. In 1791, while working on his final composition, the *Requiem*, Wolfgang passed away, aged 35. The exact cause of his death is unknown; however reports say he suffered severe swelling. He was buried in St Marx Cemetery, Vienna.

In Wolfgang's short, albeit memorable, lifetime, he composed symphonies, operas, string quartets and piano music. He will always be remembered as the greatest child prodigy in the history of classical music.

## The Author

Dr Charles Margerison is a Chartered Psychologist, a member of the Royal Institution and the Royal Society of Literature. He is Chairman of Viewpoint Resources Ltd, a publishing organization and the founder of the Amazing People Club. Previously, he was Professor of Management at the University of Cranfield, UK and also at the University of Queensland, Australia. He is the co-founder of Team Management Systems and the Chairman of Bell Hughes Music Group.



The author of more than ten books on management issues, he has also written an innovative continuing professional development system, called *The Communication and Problem Solving Resource*. This provides the educational support resources for the use of the Amazing People Series in schools and colleges.

The Amazing People Club Series commenced when Dr Margerison wondered what people like William Shakespeare, Marie Curie, Abraham Lincoln, and other great achievers would have said if he had interviewed them about their life and work. Therefore, he decided to research the known facts about their lives and write up what he thought they would say. In particular, he focussed on the psychological issues associated with their personalities and how they used their time and talents well in order to achieve. The stories give us an insight into their motivation and relationships with other people.

This unique range of stories is presented via a new concept called BioViews® that combines a biography with a virtual interview. The stories are an interpretation of the lives of amazing people, as in a theatre play. Each one is presented as if the person is talking to you personally. Every line of a BioView® has a meaning that provides a fact or an interpretation, or raises a question. There are no full stops, as in traditional writing, except at the end. The intention is to create the flow of conversation as in an interview.

BioViews® offer new and interesting ways of understanding major contributions to our world by amazing people. The stories are inspirational and we hope they can help you achieve your ambitions in your own journey through life.

# The Amazing People Club®

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The following have contributed to the current publications of the Amazing People Club for which we express our appreciation.

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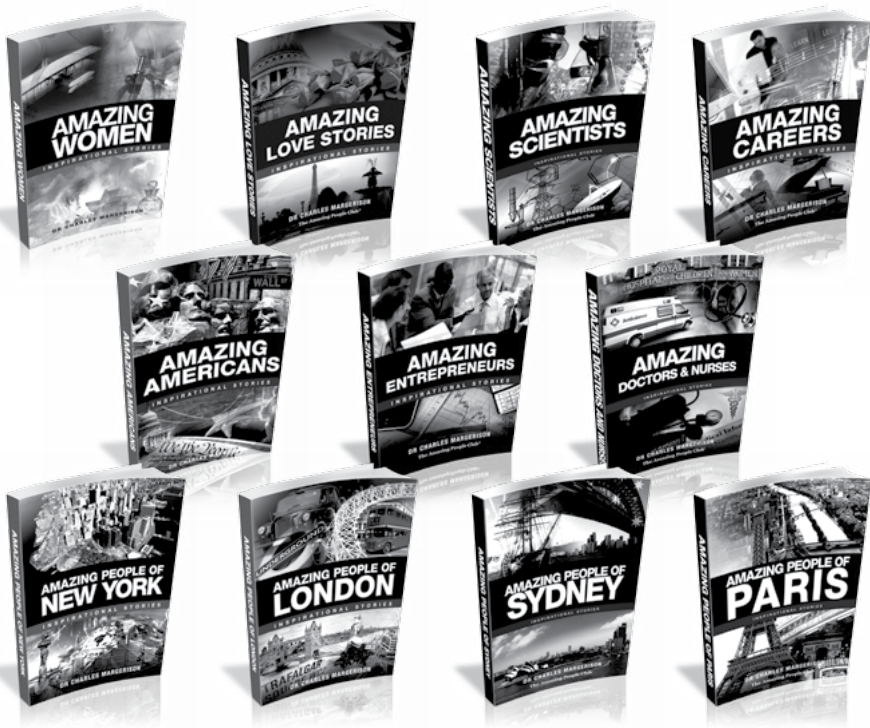
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