Facts about Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

- Mozart lived from 1756-1791
- Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria on January 27th
- Mozart was nicknamed the “Wonder Child” because he was so gifted as a child; he began playing the piano at age 4 and by age 6 was a skilled musician, writing his own composition.
- He married Constanze Weber in 1782. Mozart was actually in love with Aloysia Weber, his landlady’s daughter, but, when Aloysia rejected him, he married Constanze, her sister. They had 6 children, however, only 2 lived to be adults.
- “People err who think my art comes easily to me. I assure you, dear friend, nobody has devoted so much time and thought to composition as I. There is not a famous master whose music I have not industriously studied through many times.”…Mozart
- Mozart lived only 35 years.
- Mozart was buried in a pauper’s grave with 15-20 other people; ten years later, the grave was emptied to accommodate others who had died. One of the grave diggers saved the skull that was thought to be Mozart’s and today it is preserved at the Mozarteum.
- The pianoforte was Mozart’s favorite instrument. While Mozart was on one of his concert tours, his mother wrote to his father, Amadeus “plays differently than he does at Salzburg, because here they have pianofortes everywhere and he knows how to handle these so incomparably that nobody has ever heard the like.”
- Magic Flute, Don Giovanni, (The Marriage of ) Figaro—These are three of Mozart’s greatest operas. Mozart wrote about 20 operas.
- Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (A Little Night Music) – One of Mozarts’s most popular orchestral works, Serenade in G, K 525.
- When Mozart was 6 and his sister Nannerl was 11, their father took the children on many tours throughout Europe. The children played for many people, including kings and queens.
- Hello, Bonjour, Hola, Guten Tag - Because of his extensive travels, Mozart eventually learned to speak 15 different languages.
- It would take 202 hours to play ALL of Mozart’s music.
- Leopold Mozart was Wolfgang’s father. Leopold was a violinist and taught his children to play the violin and all of the keyboard instruments of the day.
• “Nannerl” (Maria Anna) was Mozart’s talented older sister.
• Mozart was often paid for his music with watches and snuff boxes and not the cash he needed to live on.
• Mozart loved arithmetic and would even write rows of figures on tablecloths and wallpaper.
• Always in debt—Mozart and his wife were not good at managing their money and spent it faster than they could earn it. One day, a visitor found Mozart and his wife dancing in their house because they had run out of firewood and they were trying to keep warm.
• Mozart was superstitious. He was scared of ghosts and loud noises. One day, a stranger came to his house and commissioned him to write a requiem (funeral mass). Mozart was convinced that he was writing his own burial music. Mozart did die shortly after completing this mass.
• Mozart was a genius.
• In the 1860’s Ludwieg von Kochel, a botanist (who was familiar with the principles of scientific classification) was shocked at the disorder of non-opus-numbered composers. Studying the chronology of their works, he took the 600 works of Mozart and made a list of the order in which they were composed. So Mozart’s works have K numbers rather than opus.
• Mozart had perfect pitch. Just by sound, Mozart could name any note, on any instrument.
• Mozart composed completely in his head. He was able to write long complicated passages while eating, talking with friends or playing pool. He even held his wife’s hand during childbirth and wrote music with the other.
• Mozart’s favorite foods were liver dumplings and sauerkraut.
• “…You need more recreation!” – Mozart was a workaholic and could get by with as little as 4 hours sleep. Perhaps since his doctors advised him to get more recreation, he bought a pool table.
• Mozart was concerned about his appearance and was careful to wear elegant clothes. He had a barber work on his hair more often that most people. He often wore red, his favorite color.
• Mozart loved animals. Among his favorite pets were dogs, a pet grasshopper and various birds.
• It has been said that “when he was 7, he acted 30----but when he was 30, he acted 7.”