# Mozart and Salzburg

***It seems to be impossible to talk of Salzburg without mentioning Mozart in the same breath. What better way, then, of becoming acquainted with Salzburg, whose name truly and in the widest sense symbolizes the "sound of music", than by retracing in the steps of Mozart in the city of his birth?***

The narrow, winding streets of the old city have lost none of their charm with the passing of the centuries; just a few steps away from the little town-hall, Getreidegasse broadens out into a small square. And it was here, on 27th January, 1756, in house number nine, the home of his parents, Leopold and Anna Maria, that Mozart first saw the light of day. In all, seven children were born to the Mozarts, but only two survived: Maria Anna Walpurga, known as "Nannerl", and **Johann Chrysostomus Wolfgang Theophilus, who later called himself "Amadé ".**

Today, Mozart's birthplace, with the Mozart family's residence on the third floor, is one of Austria's most popular tourist attractions. Each day music lovers from all over the world visit these rooms to pay their silent respects to the great Salzburg master. The museum contains family portraits, (among them the unfinished oil-painting by Mozart's brother-in-law, Joseph Lange, showing the composer at the piano and supposedly dating from 1789; (this work best captures Mozart's likeness), the violin Mozart played as a child, his concert violin, two of his pianos and numerous letters, personal belongings and music. The lovely old house also contains rooms illustrating the life-style of a middle-class household at the time of Mozart.

By 1773 the residence in the old house in Getreidegasse had become too small for the   
Mozarts and the family moved to a larger dwelling on the other side of the River Salzach, at what is now **Makartplatz 8.** In this house, known as **"Mozart's Residence",** Mozart composed more than 150 works, belonging to his last years in Salzburg, before he moved to   
Vienna.

The living area was destroyed during World War II, and only the so called "dancing master's room" (the Mozart's concert room) remained standing in its original form. The rebuilding of Mozarts' residence commenced on 4th May 1994 and the festive opening of the reconstructed house took place on 26th January 1996.

**More Mozart-related locations in Salzburg**

Salzburg preserves the memory of the greatest son with love and expertise. Visitors from all over the world wander in Mozart's footsteps through the beautiful city:

On 13th May 1767 the **Aula Magna** of the University of Salzburg (founded in 1623), saw the premiere of the Latin school-drama "Apollo et Hyacinthus", with music composed by the eleven-year-old Mozart. In the Residence of the Prince Archbishops of Salzburg Mozart conducted divertimenti, symphonies and serenades, and it was here that his first opera, "La Finta Semplice", was first performed.

The **Marble Hall in Mirabell Palace** functions as a venue for concerts just as it did some 200 years ago when father Leopold, Wolfgang and Nannerl gave concerts for the Prince Archbishop and his specially invited guests.

Mozart's Mass in c-major was first performed in the **Abbey Church of St. Peter** on 26th   
October 1783; Mozart himself conducted, and Constanze, his wife, sang first soprano. Each year this mass is performed as part of the Salzburg Festival, and on the evening before the anniversary of Mozart's death, 5.12., the great Requiem can be heard.

The **"Mozartsteg"**, the quaint footbridge elegantly spanning the Salzach, brings us to the heart of the old city, to the present-day Mozart square which has borne the composer's name since the inauguration of the Mozart Memorial in 1842. The Munich sculptor Ludwig Schwanthaler's larger-than-life bronze statue glorifying Mozart as the "Hero of Music" dominates the square.

The Mozart family, in life and death, seems ever-present in Salzburg. Nannerl, Mozart's much-beloved sister, is buried beside the vault of Michael Haydn in **St. Peter's cemetery**. This evocative spot, nestling beneath Hohensalzburg Fortress, is considered one of the most beautiful last resting places in the world. Father Leopold and Mozart's widow, Constanze, lie buried in **St. Sebastian's cemetery**. Despite its location just off Linzergasse, a busy shopping street, this cemetery has lost none of its centuries’ old dignity and restful beauty.

**The Heritage of the *genius loci***

The conservation and dissemination of Mozart's musical heritage is one of the primary goals of the International Foundation "Mozarteum". With these tasks in mind, the "Cathedral Music Association" and a "Mozarteum" were established in 1841, making way for the International Mozarteum Foundation in 1870. 1914 saw the opening of the present-day Mozarteum building. The excellent Mozarteum library and the Mozart archive, containing many priceless   
documents from the work of the composer, deserve special mention.

The "Mozarteum" **Academy of Music and Applied Arts** welcomes students from all over the world and is affiliated to the International Foundation. The Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra is frequently away on international concert tours and also plays a major role in the musical life of the city. Although all three institutions are somehow called “Mozarteum” and they root in the same history, today they are separate establishments.

Since November 2022, a special gem is open to public: the charming little summer house, known as the **"Magic Flute House"**. It was here, albeit in the original location near Emanuel Schikaneder's theatre in Vienna, that Mozart supposedly completed the "Magic Flute". The summer house was brought to Salzburg in 1825, and after various changes of site found a permanent and appropriate home in the court of the Mozart Residence.

The music of Mozart is ever-present in Salzburg. The **"Mozart Week"**, taking place each year in January in honour of the composer's birthday, is the first highlight in the Salzburg music calendar. The **Salzburg Festival** offers world-class productions of Mozart's operas; his works can be regularly heard at the Salzburg Palace Concerts, the Fortress Concerts, at the major orchestral concerts and at the charming serenades; his sacred music also sets a focal point in the religious life of the city. The Salzburg Marionette theatre has mainly Mozart operas on its repertoire, so delighting guests from all over the world.

Mozart died on December 5th, 1791, just 35 years old. Yet his language, the language of music, is everlasting; one of the most fascinating and important tasks facing Salzburg today is to conserve this heritage and to bring the joy of Mozart's music to our guests from all over the world.

**Connecting the dots on a special city walk**

A good way to walk on Mozarts footsteps is “City Walk: Mozart”, an individual walk through town with stops at museums, contemporary art and historical sites. The walk takes you to both sides of the river and includes famous as well as less known locations.

[www.salzburg.info/city-walks](http://www.salzburg.info/city-walks).

**Further details:**

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