



International
Mozarteum
Foundation (ed.)

111 x MOZART

Facts • Myths
Half-Truths

Anton Pustet
Verlag

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Preface

Thousands of visitors flock to the Mozart museums of the Mozarteum Foundation Salzburg each year to discover Mozart for themselves. Mozart's music is known to everyone and visitors come to the city of his birth to see his birthplace and to learn more about how he lived. Many of the established facts about the life, the character and the career of the musical genius have been blurred by myths, half-truths and rumors surrounding Mozart, the man, reads the preface to the first edition of this book, which was published under the title *Mensch Mozart!* at the end of 2005 to mark the 250th birthday of the composer. In 2011, a revised and expanded edition was published in English as *Next to Mozart*, and in 2012, the Italian edition *Piacere, Mozart!* followed. For the original publication, Dr. Gabriele Ramsauer, then director of the Mozart museums, collected the questions that were repeatedly asked by visitors from all over the world. Together with her colleagues at the International Mozarteum Foundation, Dr. Sabine Greger Amanshauser and Dr. Christoph Großpietsch, she answered these questions *briefly, concisely, and, above all, correctly*, as the preface asserts.

We are delighted that tourism has evolved over the past two decades, as our number of visitors continues to grow. Today, we witness an increase in the percentage of well-prepared individuals who visit our museums, as opposed to large groups of tourists with an itinerary to see *Europe in Seven Days*. As the prior knowledge of the average visitor increases, so has the length of time they spend in our museums—Mozart's Birthplace on Getreidegasse and the Mozart Residence on Makartplatz. What remains constant is our visitors' fascination with Mozart. The Mozart

museums offer a unique experience to open-minded visitors. This is why today, there are not fewer, rather there are more relevant questions than before. This new edition is an attempt to do justice to the vast interest in Mozart and his family, based on the latest knowledge of the International Mozarteum Foundation. *III x MOZART*, a German version of which was published in the fall of 2024, addresses questions from all age groups.

I would like to thank Christoph Großpietsch, the last member of the original team of authors, who is still working at the Foundation, for his commitment, Gabriele Ramsauer and Sabine Greger-Amanshauser for their kind support of the new edition, and my assistants Miriam Bitschnau and Miriam Pfadt for their careful editing. I would also like to emphasize the excellent cooperation with the colleagues at the museums, Linus Klumpner and Deborah Gatewood, and the publisher Anton Pustet, in particular Markus Weiglein, and Daniela Schulz.

Salzburg, August 2025

Ulrich Leisinger
Director of Research
International Mozarteum Foundation

Ancestry and Family

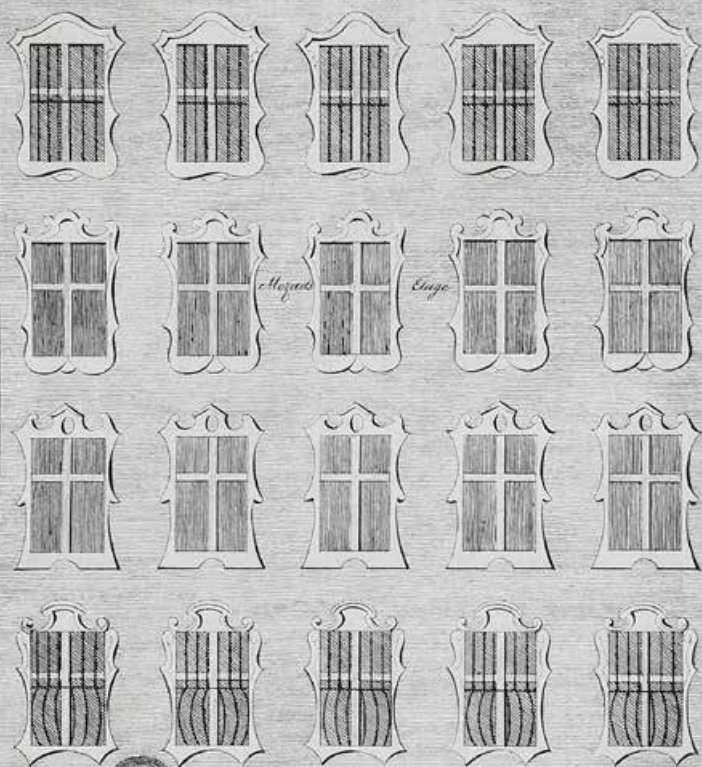


When and where was Mozart born?

Mozart was born on January 27, 1756, at 8 p.m. at no. 225 Löchlplatz, today's 9 Getreidegasse, in Salzburg. The house belonged to Johann Lorenz Hagenauer, proprietor of a successful spice shop located on the ground floor. The Hagenauer family acquired the building in 1703. Prior to that, ownership had often changed hands.

From the time of their marriage in 1747, Mozart's parents, Anna Maria and Leopold, occupied the dwelling on the fourth floor. The rented apartment of 130 square meters (ca. 430 sq. ft.) consisted of a kitchen, a small anteroom, a living room, a bedroom (where the children were born), and a room at the back, which supposedly served as Leopold's study. 26 years later, when Leopold felt that the apartment was too small to meet their needs (it lacked separate bedrooms for the two children), the family moved across the Salzach river into the so-called Dance Master's House [*Tanzmeisterhaus*] on Hannibalplatz, today's Makartplatz, into a spacious 300-square-meter (ca. 1,000 sq. ft.), eight-room apartment.

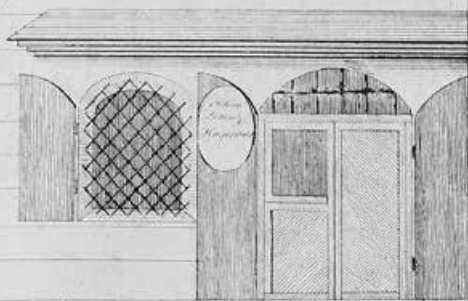
Salzburg, house no. 225, Löchlplatz. Mozart's Birthplace. Lithography. Georg Nikolaus Nissen, *Biographie W.A. Mozart's*, Leipzig, 1828.



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What was Mozart's exact name?

Mozart was baptized *Joannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus* in Salzburg Cathedral at 10:30 a.m. on January 28, 1756, one day after his birth. The first names Johannes Chrysostomus were given to Mozart because he was born on the feast day of this saint. Saint Johannes Chrysostomus, who died at the beginning of the 5th century, was the patriarch of Constantinople and the patron saint of evangelists. The name Wolfgang was given to honor the memory of his maternal grandfather, Wolfgang Nikolaus Pertl. Theophilus was the name of Mozart's godfather, Johann Gottlieb Pergmayr, a councilman and merchant in Salzburg. The Greek name Theophilus is synonymous with the German name Gottlieb and the Latin name Amadeus. Wolfgang began to call himself Wolfgang Amadeo in 1770 in Italy, and from 1777 to the time of his death he referred to himself as Wolfgang Amadé. It was only after his death that he became known as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Mozart in Courtly Attire. Oil painting, attributed to Pietro Antonio Lorenzoni, Salzburg, ca. 1763.

Who was Mozart's father?

Johann Georg Leopold Mozart was born in Augsburg on November 14, 1719, as the eldest son of the reputable book-binder Johann Georg Mozart. In 1737, following an extensive classical education in which he also received violin and organ instruction, Leopold moved to Salzburg, where he earned a baccalaureate in philosophy at the Benedictine University. In 1739, he was expelled from the university for truancy, yet found a patron in a canon of Salzburg Cathedral, Count Johann Baptist Thurn-Valsassina und Taxis, who took him on as a musician and servant. Leopold dedicated his first printed compositions, which he engraved himself, to the young prelate.

In 1743, Leopold Mozart became the unsalaried fourth violinist in the court orchestra of Salzburg's Prince-Archbishop, as well as violin teacher at the Kapellhaus, the school and living quarters of the cathedral choir boys. Three years later, he secured the salaried position of fourth violinist. In the year of his son's birth, he published the *Versuch einer gründlichen Violinschule* [*Essay on a Violin Tutor Based on Reason*], the work which would ensure his rise to fame. The treatise remained valid for music education far beyond the century. The text, used widely for music educational purposes well into the 19th century, was published in four editions and appeared in translation in the Netherlands, France, and Russia. In 1757, Leopold became court and chamber composer in the court of the Salzburg Prince-Archbishop, as well as second violinist in the court orchestra. Finally, in 1763, he was appointed deputy *Kapellmeister* of the Salzburg court orchestra, a position he would retain until his death.



Leopold Mozart. Oil painting, attributed to Pietro Antonio Lorenzoni, Salzburg, ca. 1766. He is pictured with a copy of his famous pedagogical treatise *Essay on a Violin Tutor Based on Reason*.

Leopold was a much sought-after teacher, composer, and musician. After 1760, he dedicated himself to the education of his two children. He undertook extensive concert and study tours with them. Mozart's father was considered a critical and spirited person, a man of the world. He died on May 28, 1787, at the age of 67 in the Dance Master's House [*Tanzmeisterhaus*] in Salzburg.



A treasure trove
for anyone seeking
quick and accurate
information about
W.A. Mozart's lifework

What is so amazing about
Mozart's compositions?
When did he learn his first
instrument? Why did he
become a Freemason? Did he
have extramarital affairs? Was
he poisoned? Does he have
descendants?

Hardly any other composer is the
subject of so many legends.

111 x MOZART provides entertaining
and amusing answers to the
111 most frequently asked
questions about Mozart.

