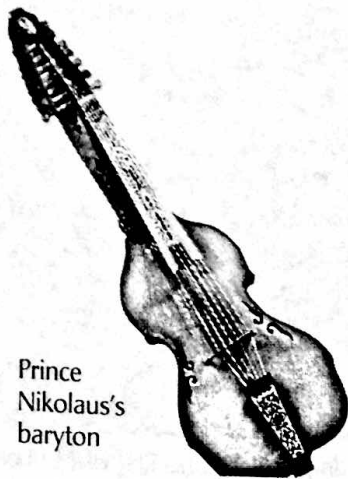


Orchestral and vocal responsibilities

Haydn was originally hired to provide more orchestral and opera music at the court. However, in the early years, Haydn composed mostly instrumental music. The orchestra at his service initially had between ten and fifteen musicians, and they must have been good ones, because Haydn wrote several concertos in those first years, and concertos require musicians who are able to play the solo parts. He composed symphonies and concertos for twice-weekly concerts as well as for special events. He also wrote lighter works, divertimentos and minuets, purely for entertainment.



Prince Nikolaus's baryton

Prince Nikolaus played an instrument called the baryton, a string instrument with a set of extra strings that resonated when the main strings were played and could be plucked for a special effect. He requested that Haydn compose music for him to play, and Haydn obliged with over 125 trios for violin, cello and baryton over the next ten years.

After the Prince had a new theatre built at Esterháza in 1768, Haydn spent a great deal of his time working with opera. He wrote an opera specially for the opening of the theatre, and other operas were written for special occasions like family weddings, or as special events for visiting dignitaries. Haydn not only wrote his own operas during these years, he also arranged and produced operas by other composers. The Empress Maria Theresa said she always went to

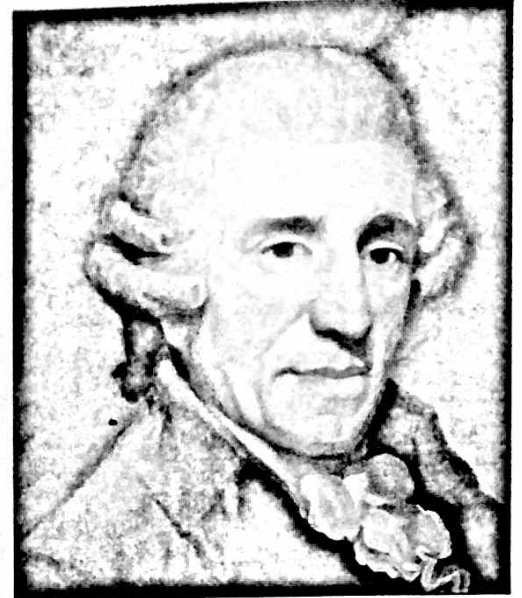
An opera at Esterháza. You can see the orchestra at the bottom, and the composer conducting from the keyboard.



Esterháza when she wanted to see a good opera. Prince Nikolaus added a marionette theatre to the facilities five years later, and Haydn wrote puppet operas for performance there as well. In addition to his opera work, Haydn wrote 15 masses, several oratorios and a number of cantatas, both religious and non-religious.

The established composer

Haydn's reputation as a composer grew steadily. He had been publishing his compositions for some years, so even though he had been isolated at Esterháza, his music was very popular. When he was asked to do a concert series in London, England, he agreed to compose an opera, six symphonies and several other concert works, and to go to London to conduct these works.



Portrait of Haydn painted on his first visit to London

Haydn very much enjoyed the rich cultural life in London. People made a great fuss over him, and he met everyone who mattered. When Haydn returned to Vienna, he was an international celebrity with a Doctor of Music degree from Oxford University. Haydn went back to London for another concert season two years later, which was again very successful. He became a favourite of the British royal family.

Haydn was very kind, and his musicians and his friends all called him "Papa." He said himself, "Anyone can see by the looks of me that I am a very good-natured sort of fellow."

At the end of his life, Haydn was able to live in Vienna. He continued to compose and conduct, and publish new works. When his wife died in 1800, Haydn was too old to remarry. Living alone in his house in Vienna, he was much valued by the Viennese people. He was made an honorary citizen of Vienna, and received honours from royalty. Haydn was not strong in these later years. His final appearance as a conductor was in 1803, and he was carried in a sedan chair to attend his last concert in 1808. Haydn grew progressively weaker until he died in May of 1809. It was reported that the "whole art-loving world of Vienna" attended his memorial service.

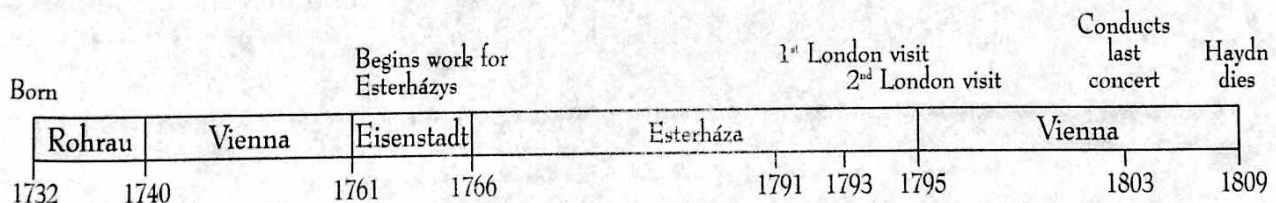


Joseph Haydn

This was the card that Haydn used in his old age, probably when he wanted to turn down invitations. It reads, "Gone is all my strength, old and weak am I."



Haydn's visiting card



Symphonies

Authenticating 18th century compositions is very difficult because there were no copyright laws in existence. Publishers could bring out editions in any way they wanted, and might even put a fashionable composer's name on the work of another. Frequently we see contradictory numbers of compositions for composers in this period. The most up-to-date authority and the one used for this volume is *Baker's Biographical Dictionary*, 1992 edition.

Haydn's Compositions

105 symphonies

Symphonies to remember:

Farewell Symphony, no. 45

Paris Symphonies, nos. 82–87

- *La reine*, no. 85

London Symphonies, nos. 93–104

- *Surprise*, no. 94
- *Miracle*, no. 96
- *Military*, no. 100
- *Clock*, no. 101
- *London*, no. 104

Sinfonia concertante, no. 105

Haydn has been called “the father of the symphony” because he, more than any other composer, created the symphony in the Classical style. Mozart and Beethoven were building on his work when they developed their own symphonies.

He wrote 105 symphonies over the course of his career. The earliest show Haydn working out the general form of the symphony and developing it. Then he went through a period where he composed a series of very different symphonies. They were much more expressive, and were written in minor keys, which was unusual for the period. Scholars have called this time in Haydn's life his “*Sturm und drang*” (storm and stress) period, after a style of German literature that dealt with gloomy subjects such as despair, suicide and madness. After this period, Haydn's symphonies are less intense and have elements of his sense of humour worked into them.

Some of Haydn's most popular symphonies today are the *Paris* symphonies, which he composed for a series of concerts in Paris, and the *London* symphonies, the ones he wrote during his two trips to London. Many of these symphonies have nicknames. *La reine*, no. 85, was so called because it was a favourite of Marie Antoinette, the Queen of France. Among the *London* symphonies, *The Surprise*, no. 94, contains a great crash on all the instruments to wake up the sleepers in the audience, *The Military*, no. 100, is full of the sounds of battle, *The Clock*, no. 101, has ticking sounds in the slow movement, and *The Miracle*, no. 96, got its name because no one was hurt when a great chandelier fell to the ground during its first performance – everyone had crowded to the front of the platform to get a better view of the orchestra. (This event actually happened at the premiere performance of Symphony no. 102, but the nickname became attached to no. 96 for some reason.)

Chamber and keyboard music

Haydn wrote over 67 string quartets, 29 piano trios, and about 62 piano sonatas. In many ways, Haydn can also be called the "father of the string quartet." The string quartet was then seen as music for connoisseurs, and in them, Haydn was able to explore his ideas without having to worry about the music being too hard for the audience to understand. They are still popular today and are among the most frequently performed quartets in the literature. His piano sonatas are still part of the repertoire of every advanced piano student and many professional musicians include them in their concerts.

Haydn's Compositions

67 string quartets

29 piano trios

62 piano sonatas

The title page of a set of six sonatas that Haydn dedicated to Prince Nikolaus I. Notice how large the Prince's name is compared to Haydn's.

S E I
S O N A T E
D A
C L A V I - C E M B A L O
C H E
A S U A A L T E Z Z A S E R E N I S S I M A
D E L
S A C R O R O M A N O I M P E R O
P R I N C I P E
N I C O L O E S T E R H A Z Y D I G A L A N T H A
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D. D. D.
L' A U T O R E
G I U S E P P E H A Y D N
M A E S T R O D I C A P E L L A D E L L A P A R T E A. S. 1780.



Haydn and his friends playing quartets. Haydn is on the right, turning the page. Haydn and Mozart became friends and they often played string quartets together.

Vocal music

Haydn's Compositions

24 operas (4 lost)

5 oratorios

15 masses

Works to remember:

Opera

- *Il mondo della luna*

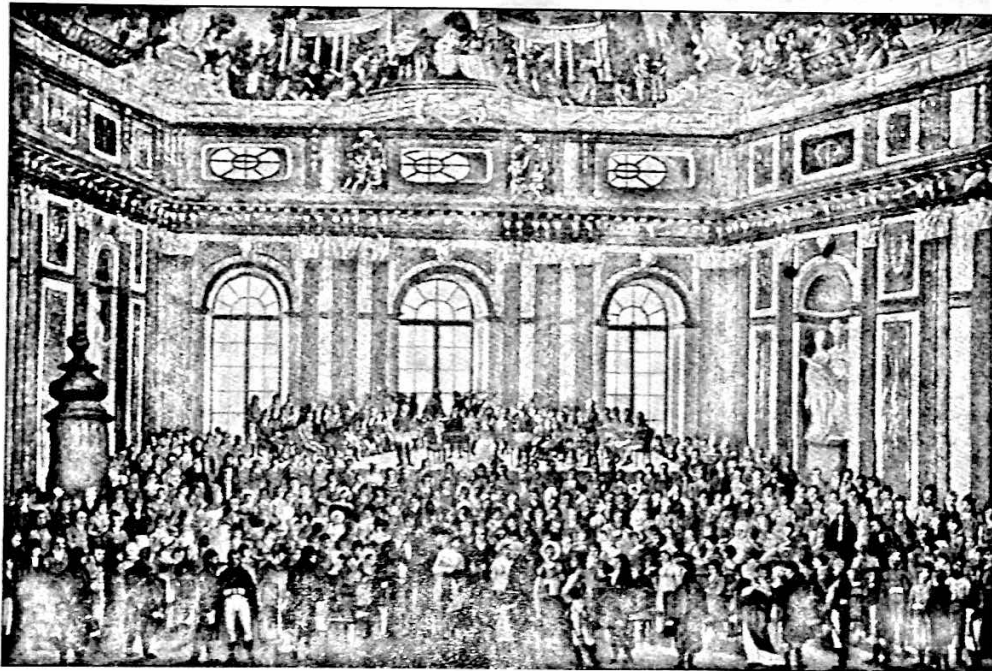
Oratorios:

- *The Creation*
- *The Seasons*

Masses:

- *Mass in Time of War*
- *Nelson Mass*

This picture of a special performance of *The Creation* to mark Haydn's 76th birthday was originally painted in miniature on a box lid. The box has unfortunately been lost. You can see Haydn sitting in the centre foreground.



Haydn wrote 24 operas of which four have been lost. Only one of them, *Il mondo della luna*, is performed regularly now, but they were very popular and influential in their day. He was a proponent of the new idea that the *opera seria* should be more natural. It is only in recent years that many of Haydn's operatic works have become available for study, and he is now seen as a very important link to Mozart in both his Italian and German-language operas.

In his later years, Haydn concentrated on choral music. He had written masses before, but hearing Handel's choral music in London inspired him to return to sacred choral works. He wrote six new masses in seven years. Two refer to the political situation at the time, when the French army under Napoleon was threatening all of Europe. These are the *Missa in tempore belli* (Mass in Time of War), and the *Nelson Mass*, celebrating British admiral Lord Nelson's victory over the French fleet.

Handel also inspired Haydn to write his two most famous oratorios. One was *The Creation*, which tells the story of how God created the world. It contains some of Haydn's most beautiful music, describing the creation of different animals, the rolling sea, the flowers in the meadows, as well as great dramatic choruses like the one illustrating God's bringing of

light into the world. *The Seasons* was Haydn's last major work. It tells of the cycle of life in the countryside, in four distinct sections. Haydn said later that he should never have attempted the work, that it wore him out.