



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

1756-1791

“ENCOUNTERING MOZART”

Compiled by David Gordon for the 2006 Carmel Bach Festival

Mozart is the highest, the culminating point that beauty has attained in the sphere of music.

- Tchaikovsky

Mozart's music always sounds unburdened, effortless, and light. This is why it unburdens, releases, and liberates us. It may be that when the angels go about their task praising God, they play only Bach. I am sure, however, that when they are together en famille they play Mozart.

- Karl Barth

Mozart's music represents neither the prolonged sigh of faith that characterizes so much of the music written before his time, nor the stormy idealism which cloaks most music after him. Rather he is that mercurial balance of the skeptic and the humane. Like him, and in him, we can always discover new worlds.

- Joseph Solman

Beethoven I take twice a week, Haydn four times, and Mozart every day!

- Rossini

Mozart encompasses the entire domain of musical creation, but I've got only the keyboard in my poor head.

- Chopin

What gives Bach and Mozart a place apart is that these two great composers never sacrificed form to expression. As high as their expression may soar, their musical form remains supreme and all-efficient. - Saint-Saens

Mozart's music is particularly difficult to perform. His admirable clarity exacts absolute cleanness: the slightest mistake in it stands out like black on white. It is music in which all the notes must be heard.

- Gabriel Faure

The works of Mozart may be easy to read, but they are very difficult to interpret. The least speck of dust spoils them. They are clear, transparent, and joyful as a spring, and not only those muddy pools which seem deep only because the bottom cannot be seen.

- Wanda Landowska

In my dreams of heaven, I always see the great Masters gathered in a huge hall in which they reside. Only Mozart has his own suite.

- Victor Borge

Mozart is the greatest composer of all. Beethoven created his music, but the music of Mozart is of such purity and beauty that one feels he merely found it—that it has always existed as part of the inner beauty of the universe waiting to be revealed.

- Albert Einstein

It is hard to think of another composer who so perfectly marries form and passion.

- Leonard Bernstein

The sonatas of Mozart are unique: too easy for children, too difficult for adults. Children are given Mozart to play because of the quantity of notes; grown ups avoid him because of the quality of notes.

- Artur Schnabel

21 piano sonatas, 27 piano concertos, 41 symphonies, 18 masses, 13 operas, 9 oratorios and cantata, 2 ballets, 40 plus concertos for various instruments, string quartets, trios and quintets, violin and piano duets piano quartets, and the songs. This astounding output includes hardly one work less than a masterpiece.

- George Szell

A world that has produced a Mozart is a world worth saving. What a picture of a better world you have given us, Mozart!

- Franz Schubert

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Mozart's Letters: an illustrated selection

translated by Emily Anderson

1938, Barrie & Jenkins, London

Re-issued 1990, Little, Brown & Co.

This volume is most highly recommended to the lover of Mozart's music. It is a richly illustrated and carefully selected compilation of Mozart's most memorable letters.

Letters of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

selected and edited by Hans Mersman

1928, J M Dent

Dover re-issue 1972

Mozart's Letters, Mozart's Life: Selected Letters

Edited and translated by Robert Spaethling

2000, Norton

Mozart: a life

Maynard Solomon

1995, HarperCollins

Mozart: a cultural biography

Robert W. Gutman

1999, Harcourt Brace

Mozart

Wolfgang Hildesheimer

1991, Farrar Straus Giroux

Mozart and the Enlightenment

Nicholas Till

1992, Norton

The Mozart Myths

William Stafford

1991 Stanford University Press