



# COMPOSER SPOTLIGHT



## DOMENICO SCARLATTI

1685-1757

Baroque

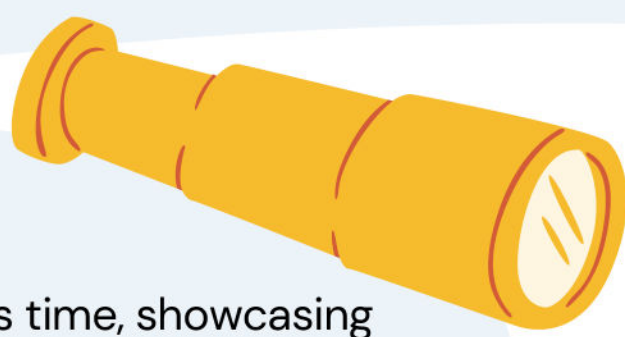


### A Master of the Keyboard

Born in Italy, Scarlatti was one of the greatest keyboard composers of the Baroque period. He spent most of his career in Spain and Portugal, where he wrote over 500 sonatas for the harpsichord. Scarlatti's sonatas were often written for the private enjoyment of the royal family, and many were composed quickly, sometimes even during his travels with the court.

### A Musical Explorer

Scarlatti's music was remarkably ahead of its time, showcasing bold harmonies, unique hand crossings, and rapid scales in ways that other composers had not explored. His time in Spain also influenced his style, and you can sometimes hear the rhythms of Spanish dances in his sonatas, making his music feel lively and unique. His sonatas were influenced by Spanish guitar music. He imitated guitar techniques like strumming and rapid finger-picking in his keyboard compositions.



### A Duel of Musical Titans

Scarlatti once competed in a musical duel with George Frideric Handel! They played both harpsichord and organ, and while opinions were mixed on who won, Scarlatti was declared the superior harpsichordist.

### The Cat's Musical Mischief

Legend has it that Scarlatti's *Fugue in G Minor* (K. 30), also known as the "Cat's Fugue," was inspired by his cat walking across the harpsichord and accidentally playing the notes that became the theme.

### The Year of Musical Geniuses

Scarlatti, Johann Sebastian Bach, and George Frideric Handel were all born in 1685, making it a historic year for music!

### Significant Works:

- Sonata in E Major, K. 380
- Sonata in D Minor, K. 9 (Pastorale)
- Sonata in C Major, K. 159