



COMPOSER SPOTLIGHT



FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN

1732–1809
Classical



Esterházy Palace

The Father of the Symphony

Haydn is often called the “Father of the Symphony” because he wrote over 100 symphonies and helped shape the form of the symphony as we know it today. He was born in Austria and worked for many years as a court composer for the wealthy Esterházy family, where he wrote music for all kinds of occasions.

A Master of Surprises

Haydn loved to keep his audience on their toes! One of his most famous works, *The Surprise Symphony*, includes a sudden loud chord in the middle of a quiet section, just to catch people off guard. He had a great sense of humor, and his playful side often shows up in his music.



Inspiration to Beethoven and Mozart

Haydn was a mentor to Beethoven and a close friend of Mozart. Both younger composers looked up to him, and Haydn’s music influenced their work. Even though he was older, Haydn was always curious about new musical ideas and encouraged his students to develop their own unique styles.



A Lifetime of Music

Haydn’s career lasted over 40 years, and he composed in many different forms, from symphonies to string quartets to operas. He was a true musical innovator, and his compositions helped lay the groundwork for future composers. Today, Haydn is celebrated for his creativity, humor, and the joy his music brings.

Significant Works:

- Symphony No. 94 in G Major (The Surprise Symphony)
- String Quartet No. 62 in C Major (Emperor)
- Piano Sonata in C Major, Hob. XVI:50