The Life and Times of Franz Joseph Haydn

1732–1809
Rohrau, Austria
Rohrau, Austria

Haydn’s Birth House

Schloss Harrach
Vienna
Vienna: St. Stephen’s Cathedral
Vienna: St. Stephen’s Cathedral
Haydn’s First Composition

- Missa Rorate Coeli Desuper
- 1748
- Not authenticated as Haydn until 1957
Haydn’s First Composition

Missa Rorate Coeli Desuper

1748

Not authenticated as Haydn until 1957
Haydn’s First Composition

- Missa Rorate Coeli Desuper
- 1748
- Not authenticated as Haydn until 1957
Vienna: Years of Growth

1750 – about 1757

Began string quartet series
String Quartet No. 1

From about 1757

It seems to have been composed for the Baron von Furnberg, at the Castle of Wienzierl.

Haydn played the viola in the quartet of two violins, viola, and cello.

It’s possible that the many hours spent playing like this gave him his incredible sense of string writing, which is apparent from the very beginning of the long series of quartets.
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Marriage

- Unhappy marriage
- Frau Haydn died in 1800
- Haydn had a number of affairs with other women throughout his life
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Symphony No. 1

In service to Count von Morzin

Long thought to be written in 1759

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Lukavec Palace, Moravia
Eszterházy Appointment
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Schloss Esterházy, Eisenstadt

Eszterháza Palace in Hungary
Nikolaus Esterházy
Nikolaus Esterházy
Nikolaus Esterházy
Haydn’s Output before 1790

- About 90 symphonies
- 14 operas
- 7 masses
- Over 50 piano sonatas
- Over 50 string quartets
- Over 50 piano trios
- Divertimentos and other chamber works
Haydn’s Operas

- One of the best opera composers of the era
- Completely eclipsed by Mozart
- Mostly unperformed nowadays
- “Non partir, ma bella face” from “Orlando Paladino”
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International Fame

- Haydn was unaware of his growing reputation until the 1780s
- Series of important commissions
- Invitations to England
- Publishers vying for his latest works
1790: End of an Era

- Death of Nicolaus Esterházy
- Ascension of Paul Esterházy
- Musical establishment disbanded
- Haydn kept on salary and given lavish pension, but free to go where he wished
A Haydn Letter

Nobly born, Most highly respected and kindest Frau von Genzinger,

Well, here I sit in my wilderness—forsaken—like a poor waif—almost without any human society—melancholy—full of the memories of past glorious days—yes! past alas!—and who knows when these days shall return again? Those wonderful parties? Where the whole circle is one heart, one soul—all these beautiful musical evenings—which can only be remembered, and not described—where are all these enthusiastic moments?—all gone—and gone for a long time.

—to friend and confidant Maria Anna von Genzinger, February 1790
London

Johann Peter Salomon
The “London” Symphonies
The “London” Symphonies

1792 – 1793
Symphonies 93 – 98
The “London” Symphonies

- 1792 – 1793
  - Symphonies 93 – 98
- 1794 – 1795
  - Symphonies 99 – 104
The “London” Symphonies

- Symphony No. 94 “Surprise”
- Symphony No. 96 “ Miracle”
- Symphony No. 100 “Military”
- Symphony No. 101 “Clock”
- Symphony No. 103 “Drumroll”
- Symphony No. 104 “London”
Symphony No. 94 “Surprise”
Symphony No. 94 “Surprise”
Symphony No. 100 “Military”
Symphony No. 100 “Military”
Symphony No. 101 “Clock”
Symphony No. 101 “Clock”
Back Home: 1796

- The late Masses
- The Oratorios
- The Creation
- The Seasons
- The late String Quartets
The Last Years

- Increasing physical fragility
- Mentally as alert as ever
- Still composing as late as 1805
Haydn’s Last Public Appearance

- March 27, 1808
- Celebration of his 75th birthday (a year late)
- Performance of “The Creation”
  - Esterházy family present
  - Royal family present
  - All musical Vienna present
  - Salieri conducted
  - Beethoven in the audience