

VIOLIN CONCERTO NO. 5 IN A MAJOR

NICKNAME "THE TURKISH"

What kind of piece is this?

A concerto is a composition in three movements, or sections, written for a solo instrument along with an ensemble accompaniment. Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5 was written for the solo violin with orchestra.

When was it composed?

The concerto was written in 1775, premiering during Christmas season in Salzburg. The Turkish style of the piece was trendy at the time. Mozart also wrote four other violin concertos that same year.

What is it about?

The beginning—or exposition—of the piece begins with a fast-paced orchestra **tutti** which gives way to the solo violin playing a soft, sweet melody. Mozart tells us that this first movement should be played "allegro aperto," meaning fast and dramatic.

Mozart's knack for lyrical music shows in the second movement. The last movement is a minuet dance melody written in Rondo Form. Rondo form means that the music alternates between different, smaller sections in an A-B-A-C-A format.

Tutti – When the whole orchestra plays together

FUN FACT
As a child, Mozart was afraid of the high-pitched sound of a trumpet. He much preferred the sound of the clarinet.

SYMPHONY NO. 29 IN A MAJOR, K. 201

About the Music

What kind of piece is this?

A symphony is a long piece of music that usually contains four movements. These movements, or sections, each have their own character. Some movements may be upbeat and lively, while others may be slower and more song-like. It is written for two oboes, two horns, and strings.

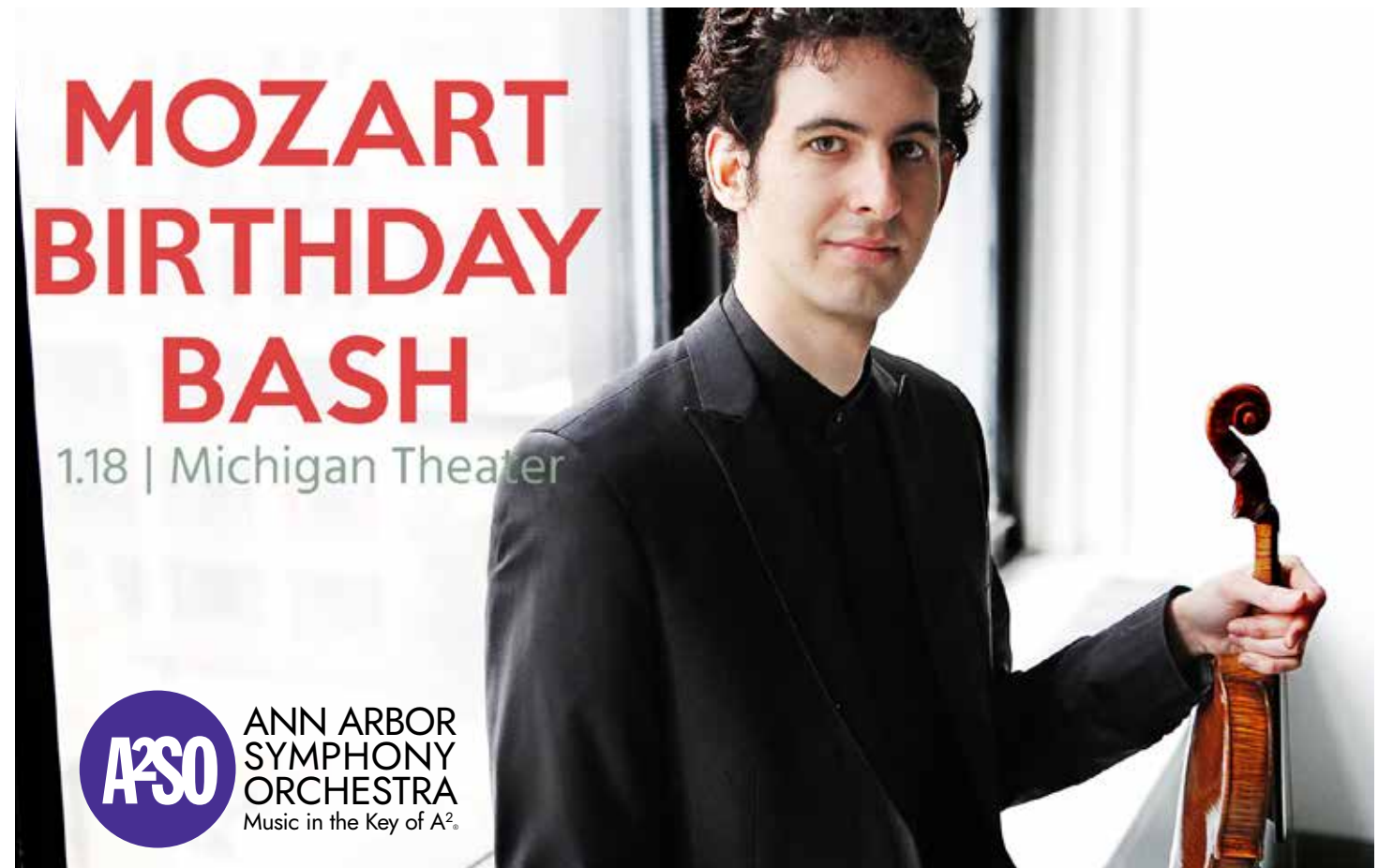
When was it written?

Mozart composed Symphony No. 29 in 1774 after moving from Vienna back to Salzburg. He was 18 years old when he wrote it.

What is it about?

This symphony has four movements: Allegro moderato, Andante, Menuetto: Allegretto–Trio, and Allegro con spirito. The opening of the symphony sounds dignified, like a king or queen entering the court. The Andante is soft and song-like, more like chamber music than a full symphony orchestra. The Menuetto is also chamber-like, but with an almost aggressive edge that takes the audience into the exciting finale.

Chamber Music – Music written for a small ensemble, like a string quartet



Program Notes for kids

Mozart Birthday Bash
Saturday, January 18th
8 p.m.
Michigan Theater

MOZART
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Famous Opera Choruses

Violin Concerto No. 5 in A Major

Symphony No. 29 in A Major

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Born January 27, 1756 in Salzburg, Austria | Died December 5, 1791 in Vienna, Austria.

Early Life

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is widely regarded as one of the greatest composers in history, and tonight we're celebrating his 264th birthday! Mozart was a child prodigy. His father – a talented violinist – taught him his first notes on the harpsichord. Mozart composed his first piece of music at the age of five, and in 1763 Mozart and his sister, Maria Anna ("Nannerl"), went on tour. For three years the siblings toured western Europe, performing in major cities such as Munich, Paris, and London.



Music

Mozart composed many different kinds of music, including symphonies, chamber music, and operas. His compositions were heavily influenced by Johann Sebastian Bach and George Frederic Handel. He is known for writing joyful melodies, playful accompaniments, and lyrical passages. Mozart was equally skilled as a performer: he knew how to play the violin, harpsichord, organ, and viola.

FUN FACTS

Mozart's full name was Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart

Mozart lived to be only 35 years old. During that time, he composed over 600 pieces of music: 21 stage and opera works, 15 Masses, over 40 symphonies, 25 piano concertos, 12 violin concertos, 27 concert arias, 17 piano sonatas, 26 string quartets, and many other works.

FAMOUS OPERA CHORUSES

BY WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

ABOUT THE MUSIC

"Chorus of the Janissaries" from *Abduction from the Seraglio*

Abduction from the Seraglio, a **singspiel** in three acts, premiered in Vienna on July 16, 1782.

The story follows Belmonte, a Spanish Nobleman, who arrives from Spain save his fiancée Konstanze, her maid Blonde, and his servant Pedrillo from being sold to pirates and the evil Pasha Selim. Pedrillo then tricks the Pasha into seeking Belmonte as an architect so Belmonte and Pedrillo can enter his palace. Later on, Belmonte reunites with Konstanze and the two rejoice in love. As Belmonte and Pedrillo plan their escape with ladders, Osmin notices the ladders and demands to see the crew hung. He informs the Pasha that his father is a Governor of Lostados (enemy of the Pasha), which leads to the Pasha releasing Belmonte and his friends in a change of heart.

Singspiel – an opera that includes some spoken dialogue.

"Bella vita militar" from the opera *Così fan tutte*

Mozart began composing the opera *Così fan tutte* with Italian **libretto** in 1789. The work premiered on January 27, 1790 in Vienna.

The opera takes place in Naples, Italy, around 1790. The cynical Don Alfonso makes a bet with Ferrando and Guglielmo that their fiancées, sisters Dorabella and Fiordiligi, are like all women and cannot be faithful to them. They accept, agree to follow his instructions, and plan how to use their winnings. In this part of Act I, "Bella vita militar" depicts a military march, as the boat arrives with a troop of soldiers and an escort of villagers. Ferrando and Guglielmo depart and say good-bye to their fiancées as their fidelity is put to the test.

Libretto – the words to an opera, just like lyrics to a song.

"Giovani liete and Ricevete o pardonici" from *The Marriage of Figaro*

Mozart composed *The Marriage of Figaro*, a comic opera, in 1782. The libretto was written by Lorenzo Da Ponte. It first premiered in Vienna on May 1, 1786.

As the story goes, Figaro seeks to marry his lover, Susanna. However, the nefarious Count Almaviva delays the wedding in his selfish hopes to win Susanna for himself. Luckily, the Count's wife and Susanna come up with a plan to teach the Count a lesson. In this scene of *Figaro* from the end of Act I, Mozart uses a flute duet Figaro as he leads a group of peasants to sing Count Almaviva's praises.

"Chorus of the Priests" and "Heil sei euch geweith" from *Magic Flute*

The Magic Flute premiered in Vienna on September 30, 1791.

Three months after *The Magic Flute* (*Die Zauberflöte* in German) premiered in Vienna, Mozart passed away at the age of 35. It was his last produced work for the opera stage. The opera is a fairy tale written to appeal to a popular audience, and not rich aristocrats who usually went to the opera theater.

In the first scene of the opera we find Prince Tamino pursued by an evil serpent. After being rescued by Three Ladies of the Queen of the Night, the birdcatcher Papageno enters, and takes credit for killing the serpent. As a punishment for lying, the Ladies padlock his mouth. They then give Tamino a painting of the Queen's abducted daughter, Pamina. Falling in love with her image, he sets out to rescue her. The Queen promises that if he succeeds, she will agree to their marriage. Tamino is given a magic flute, Papageno some magic bells, and together they journey to Sarastro's palace, where Pamina is being held.

Later, Tamino must pass a series of trials to prove his love for Pamina. At the end of Act II, Tamino passes the trials and the Queen of the Night is banished. Pamina and Tamino finally join together as the opera sings the final chorus "Heil sei euch geweith."

"I pay no attention whatever to anybody's praise or blame. I simply follow my own feelings." -Mozart