

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**  
(1756 - 1791)



**COMPOSER:** WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756 - 1791)  
(VOOLF.gang am.uh.DAY.oos MOTE.sart)

**COMPOSITION:** *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* (Serenade K.525) 1<sup>st</sup> movement: “Allegro”

**FEATURES:**

1. **String Family** – String Orchestra (violins, violas, ’cellos, basses)
2. **Sonata** form – AABA
3. **Allegro** – quickly, merrily (literally “lightly”)
4. **Serenade** – singable melody

**BACKGROUND:**

**The Composer:** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is perhaps the most famous composer ever. He was a “child prodigy” who wrote his first music by age 5. He was a virtuoso harpsichordist and violinist by age 6. His father, Leopold, a noted violin teacher, recognized his genius and took him on tours to all the royal courts of Europe at age 7.

With the invention of the piano, Mozart devoted himself to that instrument and was its first great virtuoso. But it was his composition that preserved his genius for all time. Music seems to have poured through his veins. When he died at the tragically young age of 35, he left over 600 major compositions including 40 Symphonies, 20 operas, and 27 piano concertos, which all rank among the most enduring works ever written.

**The Composition:** Mozart wrote *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* in 1787 after a long illness. The work was written in all probability, for a long forgotten specific occasion. It was meant as a “Serenade” – light, romantic evening entertainment. How wonderfully it fulfills this purpose!

- QUESTIONS:** How does the music make you feel?  
For what purpose do you think Mozart wrote this music? (*See above*)  
What instruments do you hear? [*violins, violas, ’cellos, basses* ]  
Conduct the music in 4.  
This piece has been used in recent times for Pancake House commercials and in the Mario video game. Why do you think it is so popular 220 years or more after it was written?

**SOME POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES:**

1. Count repetitions of the main theme (see below). [There are 4.]

$\frac{4}{4}$          
    d    s<sub>1</sub>    d    s<sub>1</sub>    |    d    s<sub>1</sub>    d    m    s    |    f    r    f    r    |    f    r    t<sub>1</sub>    r    s<sub>1</sub>    |

2. Sing the theme. Make up words that fit the melody.
3. Make a picture to go with this music.
4. Follow the Sonata Allegro structure: Exposition (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> contrasting themes) Development (short in this piece) Recapitulation in home key only, coda. Can you hear the second theme?
5. Make **f** and **p** cards (*piano* and *forte*, loud and soft). Have kids hold up each when appropriate.