

**SYMPHOMANIA!**  
**DO IT YOURSELF**

# WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

# JUPITER SYMPHONY

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## INTRO

Today we are listening to Symphony No. 41 in C major, known as the 'Jupiter Symphony', by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

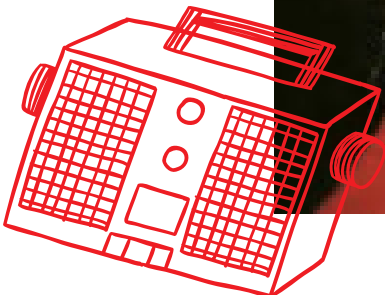
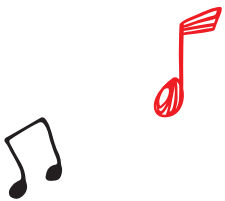
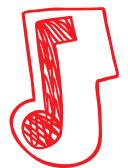
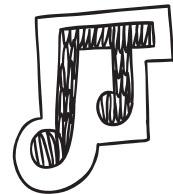
## A MUSICAL CHILD PRODIGY

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is certainly considered one of the great child prodigies of our music history. As a small child he was already a virtuoso on the violin, organ and harpsichord (the precursor of the piano). At the age of five, he had already composed his first piece of music!



Mozart lived a short but intense life. He achieved great success but also went through some difficult times in his life. He and his wife, Constanze Weber, had six children, of whom four died in childhood. Mozart himself got sick and died at the age of 35.

Mozart worked very hard and very fast, and left the world more than 600 compositions. To this day, he is one of the most famous composers of classical music.

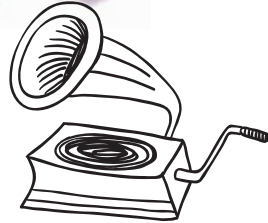




# THE JUPITER SYMPHONY

Wolfgang wrote his 41st symphony in the year 1788. This was a dark year in his life. He was ill and had no money. Despite his illness, Mozart threw himself into his music and in two months wrote no fewer than three symphonies and some ten other works! His 41st symphony in C major, known as the Jupiter Symphony, was the last symphony Mozart would write.

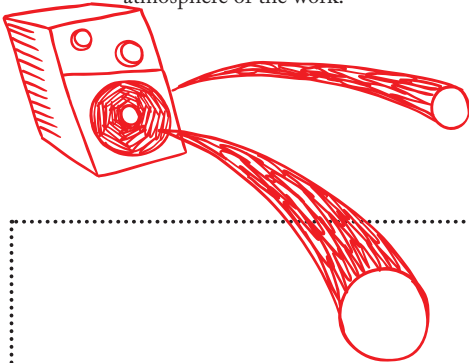
The name of the symphony comes from Jupiter, the Roman king of the gods and god of the sky and thunder. It was not Mozart who came up with the title. The symphony was given this title over the years because many listeners found it appropriate to the powerful and regal nature of the music. Experts consider this symphony the height of Mozart's ability – a true masterpiece. If any work merits such a godly title, it is surely this one!



## FIRST MOVEMENT: ALLEGRO VIVACE A ROYAL ATMOSPHERE

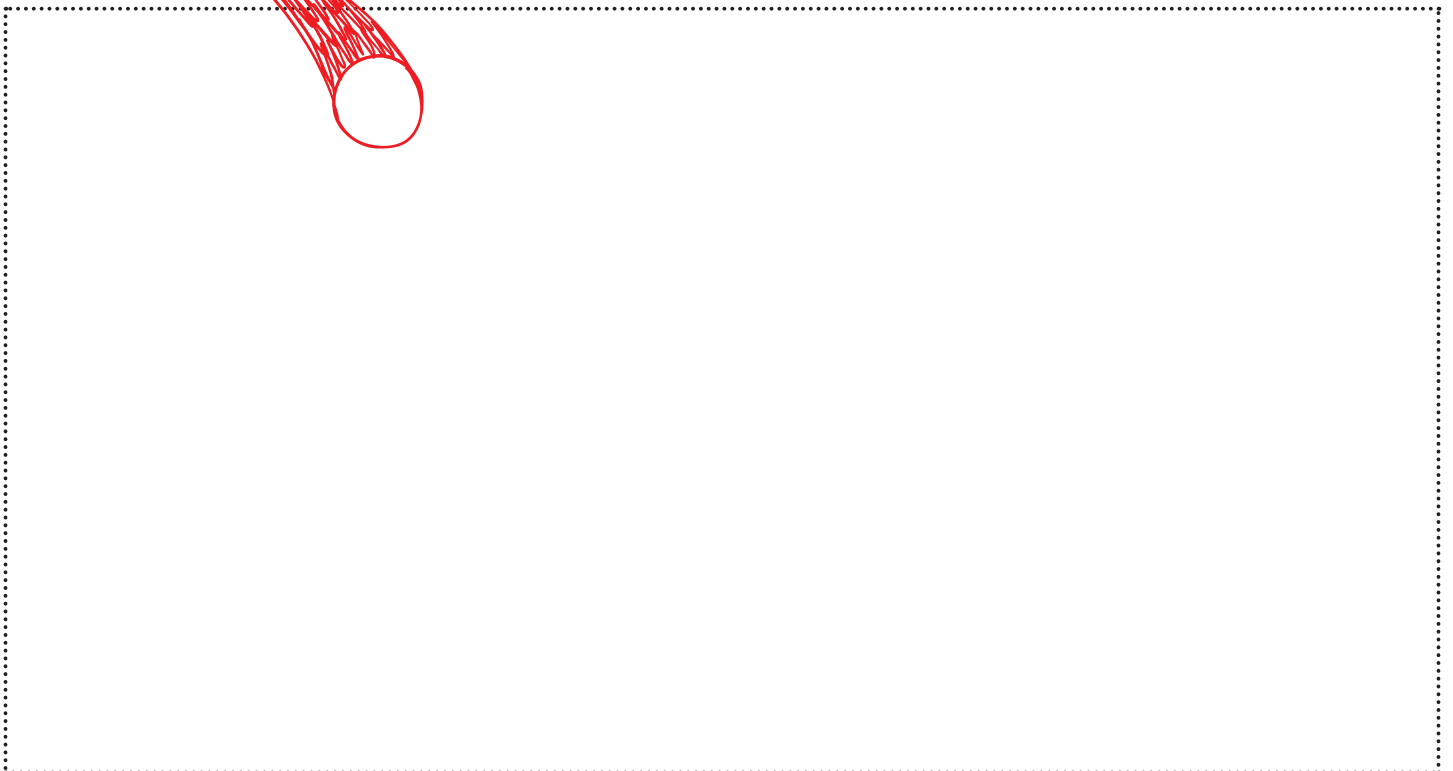


If you listen to the first movement, it is no wonder that over the years, the 41st Symphony came to be known as the Jupiter. The work begins with a solemn, royal atmosphere. The title Allegro Vivace is Italian for fast and lively, and indicates the tempo and atmosphere of the work.



## ACTIVITY:

Close your eyes and **listen here** to the beginning of the 41st symphony. Have you wandered far away into an imaginary palace? Or among the Roman gods? Or perhaps you find yourself in a completely different place? Think up your own musical tale to go with the piece and make a drawing of what you hear.



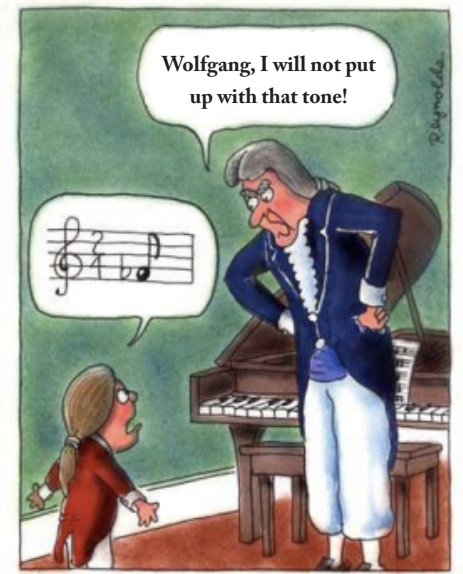
## A MUSICAL JOKER



Did you know that... Mozart was not only a genius composer but was also a great joker? He particularly loved gags and off-colour jokes. In his free time, he loved to compose bawdy songs for his circle of friends, including a canon with the inspiring title 'kiss my rear-end'.

There is also a musical joke in the first movement of this symphony. At the end of the movement, Mozart concealed the melody of 'un bacio di mano' (a kiss on the hand) in the music.

Un bacio di mano was an earlier piece written by Mozart.. It's about a nervous young man who kisses the hand of a young woman for the first time. The mood of this piece is in stark contrast with the solemn and royal beginning of the first movement. It was intended by Mozart as a musical joke to lighten the seriousness of the beginning, and is a nod to those who knew his music well.



MOZART AS A CHILD



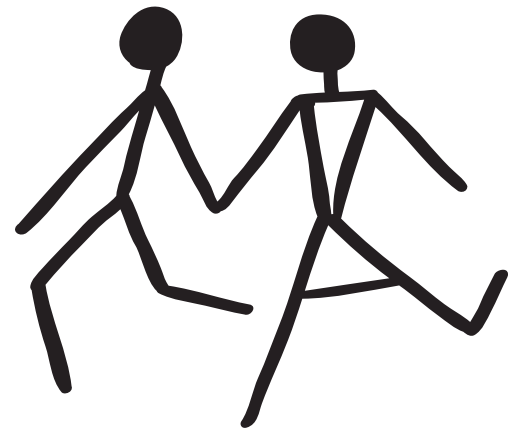
Listen [here](#) to the original version of 'un bacio di mano'  
Listen [here](#) to the nod to 'un bacio di mano' in the Jupiter Symphony.



## SECOND MOVEMENT: ANDANTE CANTABILE

Andante Cantabile means slow and song-like. It feels like a peaceful stroll. The violins sing and produce an enchanting melody with their instruments.

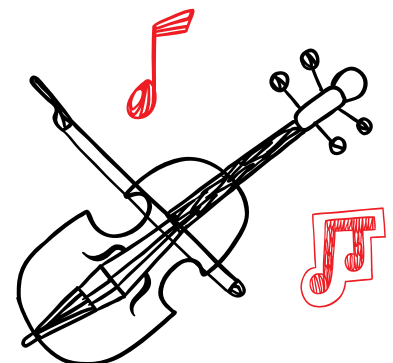
Mozart wrote the Andante Cantabile as a Sarabande. That is a slow, stately dance with elegant movements that was very popular at the French court between the 15th and 17th centuries. [Here](#) you can see an example of some Sarabande dance moves!



## ACTIVITY: TAKE A STROLL THROUGH THE LIVING ROOM!

Put on Mozart's **Andante Cantabile**.

Put on your walking or dancing shoes and take a dance-like stroll through your living room in the style of a Sarabande!



# BOOM, TIMPANI ROLL! MENUETTO.

The Menuetto is the third movement of Mozart's 41st Symphony. In this movement, you can hear Jupiter, the god of thunder and lightning at work in the form of timpani rolls!



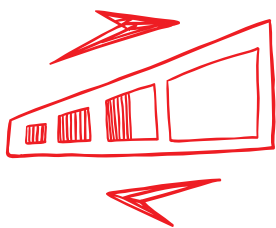
What does a thundering timpani roll sound like?

Listen [here](#) to the typical sound of a timpani roll!

Listen [here](#) to the Menuetto. Can you identify Jupiter's thunder and the timpani in the rustle of the wind played by the woodwinds and strings?

## DID YOU KNOW THAT

Clarinets, which are normally part of the symphony orchestra, do not play in this work? Mozart did not write a part for them. For once, the clarinets get to take a break in the 41st Symphony.



## FOURTH MOVEMENT: MOLTO ALLEGRO

Molto Allegro is Italian for very fast. It refers to the quick and lively nature of the music.

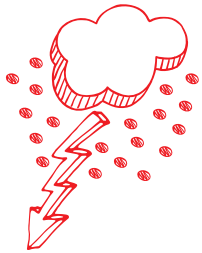
The final movement of the 41st Symphony is a favourite of music lovers. Mozart weaves a beautiful musical web out of a few simple musical elements.

The Molto Allegro begins with four simple notes in the violin. Throughout the movement, these four notes are taken over and further embroidered upon by all the other instruments of the orchestra.

In [this short film](#) you can easily follow Mozart as he selects and interweaves his ingredients. Enjoy!



## ACTIVITY: BUILD YOUR OWN THUNDER DRUM!



### DRUMS

- Empty tin cans
- One balloon per tin
- Rubber bands

1. Cut off the bottom of the balloon (the part you use to blow it up) and stretch the balloon over the top of the tin can.
2. Fasten the balloon to the can with a rubber band.
3. Personalise your drum by painting it or covering it with coloured paper!

### DRUMSTICKS

- Pencils or wooden sticks
- Stuffing: tissues, plush, old fabric, etc.
- A piece of fabric or string
- Tape

1. Take a pencil or wooden stick and a bit of stuffing. Make a wad out of the stuffing material and tape it to the stick in the form of a ball.
2. Take a piece of fabric and wrap it around the ball.
3. Tie a piece of string around the fabric (see photo).



ENJOY THE LOVELY MUSIC OF WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART!