



## Press release

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### Mozart in Munich

The life and opus of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is closely connected with the city of Munich, a hub of musical life in Germany. Two of his great works were completed in the city, which served as the residence of Prince Electors at the time: On January 13, 1775, *La finta giardiniera*, an opera buffa in three acts, was premiered in Munich; and on January 29, 1781, it was the turn of the opera *Idomeneo* at the Cuviliés Theater.

In 1762, at the tender age of six, Mozart visited Munich for the first time and, together with his sister Nannerl, gave his first concerts for Prince Elector Max Joseph III at the Residenz.

His second visit came the following year, in June 1763. Mozart always had fond memories of the concert given before the Prince Elector and the Court at Nymphenburg Palace. He and Nannerl also visited the Amalienburg, the Badenburg and the Pagodenburg on this occasion in Nymphenburg's sprawling park.

Munich served as the Mozarts' point of departure for an European tour that lasted a good three years and brought in a harvest of successes. On returning from this triumphant journey, the family, including the ten-year-old Wolfgang Amadeus, once again made a stop in Munich. Mozart gave concerts at the court of the Prince Elector. Mozart's work was influenced by three trips he took to Italy in the following years. Then, in the fall of 1774, he received a commission from the court of the Prince Elector requesting an opera buffa for the 1775 carnival season. Mozart spent around three months in Munich, and on January 13, 1775, his opera buffa in three acts *La finta giardiniera* was premiered at the Redoutenhaus on Prannerlgasse (the building, alas, no longer exists).

This was the first production of one of Mozart's major operas in Germany. The performance was a great success and was repeated twice. During his stay in Munich, Mozart also gave numerous piano recitals, and his *Offertorium de tempore "Misericordias Domini"* was performed in the Court Chapel of the Residence.

Aspiring for an appointment at court Mozart returned to Munich in 1777. His hopes, however, were dashed, and so he continued on to Paris. On returning from Paris to Salzburg, he stopped in Munich again for a few days at the end of 1778 and the beginning of 1779. In the meantime, Prince Elector Karl Theodor had succeeded Max Joseph III.

In late fall 1780, Mozart received a letter from the Prince Elector with a commission for an opera seria, a serious opera, for the following carnival season. On November 5, 1780, Mozart set off for Munich where he began to work on *Idomeneo*. The first rehearsal with a full orchestra took place on December 1 of the same year in the presence of the Prince Elector, Karl Theodor. The premiere was on January 29, 1781, in the Cuviliés Theater, an enchanting gem of rococo architecture. The opera was a success, and Mozart once again entertained the hope of being appointed to the Court. But his dreams failed to materialize again; so he left Munich on March 12, 1781.

Mozart's last visit to Munich was in October and November of 1790. He had been asked by the Prince Elector to give a concert in the Kaisersaal (Imperial Hall) of the Residenz in honor of Ferdinand IV of Naples-Sicily.

Mozart died in Vienna on December 5 1791. During his lifetime and after his death, as well, Mozart's works and reputation were always well respected in Munich.

In 1785, already, the *Abduction from the Seraglio* was performed in Munich. Mozart's *Don Giovanni* was given in 1791 on orders from the Prince Elector. In 1793, it was the turn of *The Magic Flute*. And in January 1794, *The Marriage of Figaro* was staged.

There can be no doubt, that Munich was Mozart's city; but it also became the "city of Mozart" only later on: Namely, when the Mozart renaissance was launched by Hermann Levi and Felix Otfl in the 1890s and Richard Strauss and Ernst von Possart integrated Mozart in the opera's repertoire and in opera festivals as the "house god."

A glance at the opera statistics reveals that between 1810 and 1824, the works of Mozart numbered amongst the most performed at Munich's Court and National Theater.

### **Mozart sites in Munich:**

Performances were held at the following places:

The Residenz: Kaisersaal (Imperial Hall), Hofkapelle (Court Chapel), Cuvilliéstheater (Cuviliés Theater)

Nymphenburg Palace, with the Amalienburg, Pagodenburg and the Badenburg.

The various inns where Mozart dwelled during his stays in Munich, like the "Zum schwarzen Adler" at Kaufingerstrasse 23 or the "Goldener Hirsch" at Theatinerstr. 17, no longer exist, unfortunately.

The memorial plaque at Burgstrasse 6 recalls the fact that Mozart wrote much of *Idomeneo* here during his several month-long stay in 1780/1781. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the "Gasthaus zum Mozart" inn was opened on the ground floor (but it no longer exists).

In addition, Mozart was also frequently invited to stay with families of nobles in Munich: with Johann Nepomuk von Pernat, Canon at the Church of our Lady (the house was right beside the church, where the music store Hieber is today); with Count Joseph Ferdinand von Salern (the house was on the corner of Theatinerstr. and Perusastr.); with Imperial Count Johann Kaspar von La Rosée (corner of Dienerstr. and the Hofgraben); with Frau von Durst (Marienplatz 26); or with Duke Clemens Bavaria (the nephew of the Prince Elector at the time), who lived in the Clemens Schloßl on Elisenstrasse at the Stachus (the location of the house is marked by a plaque affixed to the current Palace of Justice).

(For more information for journalists: Astrid Ganssen, Tel: 0049 (0)89/233-30289, email: [astrid.ganssen@muenchen.de](mailto:astrid.ganssen@muenchen.de))