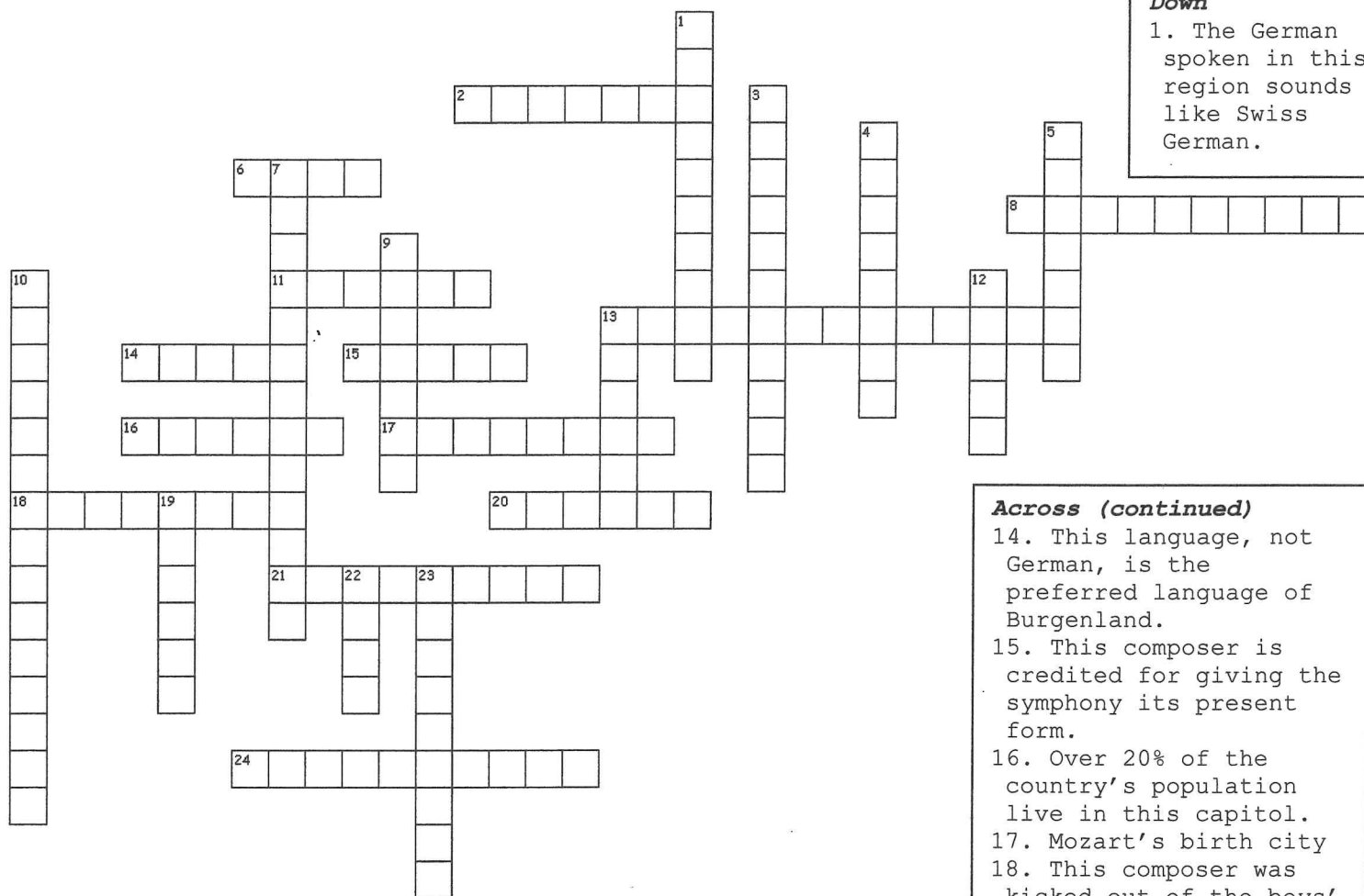


Cultures of the World: "Austria"

Directions: Read over the clues to the puzzle first, then find their answers in the article.

Name _____

Date _____ Hr. _____



Down
 1. The German spoken in this region sounds like Swiss German.

Across (continued)
 14. This language, not German, is the preferred language of Burgenland.
 15. This composer is credited for giving the symphony its present form.
 16. Over 20% of the country's population live in this capitol.
 17. Mozart's birth city
 18. This composer was kicked out of the boys' choir when his voice changed.
 20. He died at 35, singing the melody of the Requiem, his last song.
 21. This city hosted the Winter Olympics twice.
 24. Austria's total area has no coastline—in other words, it's ____.

3. Austrians are more like the people in ____ countries than their fellow Austrians.
 4. This famous dictator caused a revolt when he gave the state of Tyrol to the king of Bavaria.
 5. The population of Burgenland faces two economic problems: seasonal agriculture and a lack of ____.
 7. This tiny country lies to the west of Austria.
 9. He wrote the famous Blue Danube Waltz.
 10. Someone from Vorarlberg would say someone from Vienna acts with "____."
 12. This activity was called "indecent" and "foreign" when it first was introduced in London.
 13. The people of this state produce and consume their own food and drink and do not "export" to other parts of Austria!
 19. The frozen body found in Tyrol dates back to the ____ Age.
 22. Austria is a federation of ____ states.
 23. Schubert was buried near this man—his idol.

Across
 2. An amazing discovery was found in this very old, very cold formation.
 6. mountains that cross Austria from the east to west
 8. This Austrian state has close ties to Hungary.
 11. Carinthia boasts of its rich ____ background, having one of the largest settlements of its kind discovered there.
 13. If you want to offend Austrians, tell them they're just "____ really."

AUSTRIANS

A couple in a park. The people of a particular region are sometimes more similar to people in neighboring countries than they are to their fellow Austrians from another region.



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Austria is a federation and most of the nine states have a distinct personality of their own. As a result the people of each state tend to be different and so there is really no typical Austrian as such. The most important factor that accounts for the differences in various provinces is

Austria's proximity to so many neighboring countries and their cultures. This closeness has given rise to population shifts and consequent cultural "invasions," the legacies of which largely determine the interesting differences between one part of Austria and another. The physical geography of Austria has also influenced the country's cultural development because the Alps have created physical barriers between one area and another. Such cultural differences can exist even between one valley community and another just a few miles away, manifesting themselves in differences of costume and dialect. As a result, some Austrians are more like the people in neighboring countries than their fellow Austrians.

The People of Burgenland

THE PEOPLE OF BURGENLAND

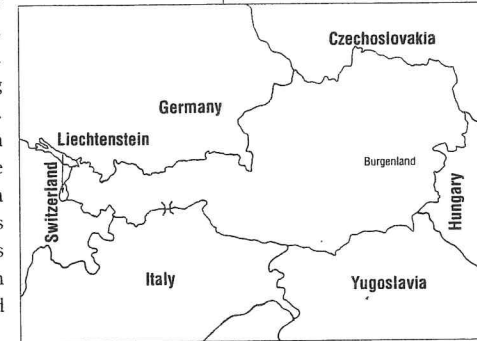
Burgenland is the least visited part of Austria, as far as tourists from Western Europe are concerned. Its closeness to Hungary has produced a people who are more subject to the influence of that country than any other part of Austria. Burgenland is one of the only two parts of Austria where German is not spoken by everyone. The state has an important Croatian minority and Croat is the preferred language for these people.

Historically, the people of Burgenland have closer links with Hungary than any other part of Austria. After the breakup of the Austro-Hungarian empire after World War I, a plebiscite (a vote by which people of a political unit determine autonomy or affiliation with another country) was held. The result of the vote was that this slice of Hungary became a part of Austria.

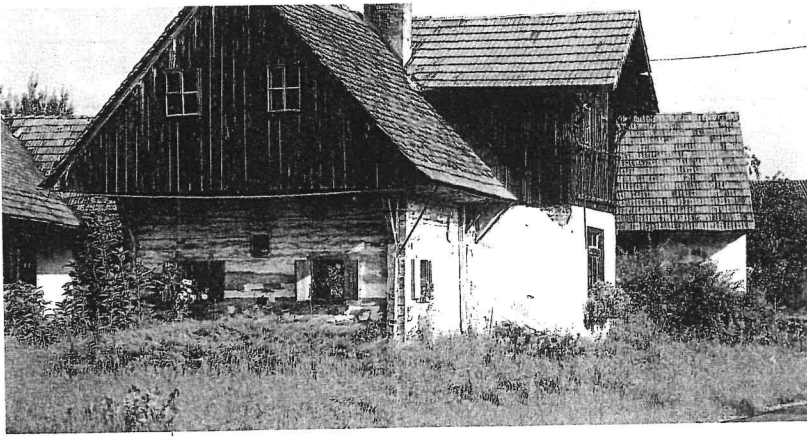
Burgenland doesn't look like the postcard-picture Austria because there are no snowy mountains and the people are mostly fruit and vegetable farmers. Therefore, the people of Burgenland face two related economic problems.

Their lifestyle is subject to seasonal variation. Agricultural production is profitable in the spring and summer but not so during the winter months. Moreover, they do not have the benefit of tourism to supplement their income, although the nature reserve around Lake Neusiedl—a steppe lake with wide reed belts—is attracting many visitors because of the great number of wetland birds breeding there. As a consequence there has been a population drift away from Burgenland toward Vienna and other parts of the country.

Father and son horse-taxi drivers. Not all who work in the city were born there; many came from the countryside to seek employment.



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Above: A farmhouse in Styria. Food is produced for consumption within the region in Styria.

Opposite: A Tyrolean farmer drives his horse cart through the village. Traditional means of transportation are still used in the countryside.

THE PEOPLE OF STYRIA

The people of Styria live close to Yugoslavia, Hungary and Italy, a fact which might help explain their strong sense of independence. One writer recounted recently how he was enjoying a dinner in a farmhouse near Graz when he was surprised to discover that both the lamb he was eating and the wine he was drinking were local produce. He asked the farmer why such good quality meat and wine were not available in Vienna, where lamb is expensively imported from New Zealand. The farmer's serious reply was that in Styria farmers didn't export their lamb or their wines. The idea of selling their produce to their own country's capital is viewed in terms of international trade!

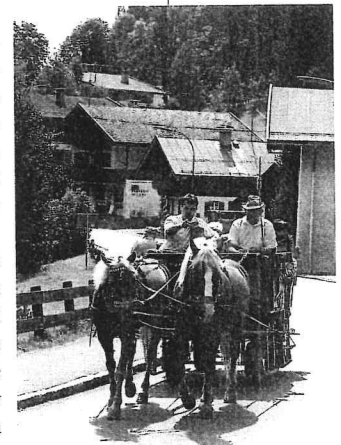
If not engaged in farming the people of Styria are likely to have jobs connected with one of the state's major industries: forestry, glass manufacturing or the magnesite and iron and steel industries. The center of the iron ore industry is the Erzberg (Brass Mountain), the largest open-cast working of iron ore in Europe. In recent years, however, the iron and steel industry has been in decline.



THE TYROLEANS

Tyrol is surrounded by majestic mountains and the people of this state are famous for their traditions and nationalist fervor. The Tyroleans are proud of the fact that they possess a rich heritage as free and independent farmers who were never serfs to the local nobility. Today, this history accounts for their confidence and strong sense of being Tyrolean and Austrian. It is connected with the turbulent history of a province that has been fought over many times in history. The existence of once-precious silver mines plus the proximity of the Brenner Pass through the Alps to Italy made Tyrol a much disputed area. When the state was given to the king of Bavaria by Napoleon in the early 19th century, the Tyroleans rose in revolt under the leadership of Andreas Hofer and, after Hofer's execution, he became an important folk hero.

Tyrol is the part of Austria that nearly all tourists visit and Innsbruck, the major city of Tyrol, is the most historic and renowned city after Vienna. Surrounded by mountains and expressways, Innsbruck has a spectacular location and has twice been chosen as the site for the Winter Olympic Games. Tourism is vitally important for the people of Tyrol, many of whom earn their living as mountain guides and hoteliers.



AUSTRIANS

Scenic Innsbruck—with the old quarter in the foreground and the Alps in the back. Many Tyroleans work in the tourist industry.



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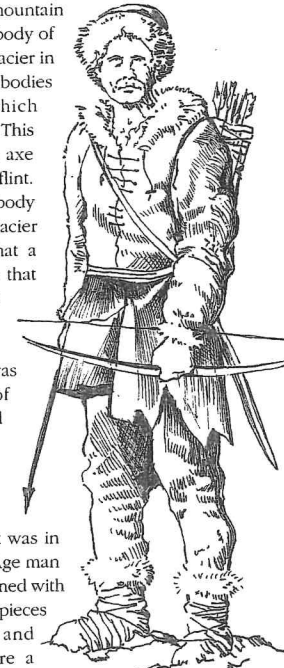
Tyrol has a population of around half a million in an area of nearly 5,000 square miles—though some would claim the number of Austrian Tyroleans should be a lot higher. There is an area in northern Italy known as South Tyrol which belongs to Italy because of agreements made after World War I. During the 1960s especially, this became a very controversial issue as the German-speaking inhabitants of South Tyrol felt their Austrian heritage was not being properly recognized. Terrorist attacks took place at the time, although now South Tyrol has some degree of autonomy and the German language is accepted in this part of northern Italy. Still, it is not uncommon to find Tyroleans in Austria who possess property in South Tyrol and consider that part of Italy to be more legitimately a part of Austria.

Recently another kind of territorial dispute has arisen, showing again how closely linked the Tyroleans are to Italy. This time it is over the discovery of a 4,000-year-old corpse in a melting glacier. The Italian authorities claim that when the body was discovered, there was a fog that prevented them from realizing that the location of the discovery was actually on the Italian and not the Austrian part of the glacier!

AUSTRIA'S OLDEST RESIDENT

At the end of 1990 the son of a mountain guide was startled to discover the body of a man under the melting ice of a glacier in the south of Tyrol. Usually such bodies are victims of avalanches which happened up to 50 years earlier. This man, however, was clutching an axe and beside him lay a knife and a flint. People speculated that maybe the body was up to 500 years old, but glacier specialists said it was unlikely that a glacier could preserve a body for that length of time. This body was remarkably well preserved—the skin could still be seen and muscle tissue remained. The skeleton was complete and showed signs of violent injuries to the head and back.

The body was brought by helicopter to the University of Innsbruck where, to everyone's surprise, it was determined that it was in fact 4,000 years old. This Bronze Age man was wearing shoes made of hide, lined with hay, and near the body were found pieces of birch bark sewn together and chamois hairs. Also found were a wooden backpack, a stone necklace and a leather pouch containing a flint light. How were this man and his possessions preserved for so long? One suggestion is that he might have been mummified by freezing air before falling into the glacier.



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"...the first day was so lovely that I determined to stay for a second, and the second was so lovely that I have decided to stay here for the time being."

— the German composer Johannes Brahms describing an unplanned holiday he spent in Carinthia



THE PEOPLE OF CARINTHIA

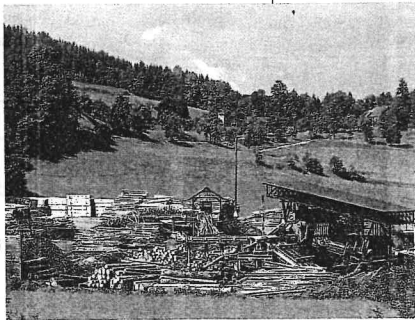
Like Burgenland, Carinthia is a province with a non-German speaking population. The minority language is Slovene, spoken by the ancestors of Slovenes who settled in the area centuries ago. The Slovenes in Carinthia are proud of their language and are fighting to keep it in use.

At the end of World War I, when a slice of Hungary became Austrian and a part of Tyrol became Italian, something similar was happening in this part of Austria. The result was that Austria had to give slices of Carinthia to the then new nation of Yugoslavia as well as Italy. Today, many visitors to the Slovene capital of Ljubljana in Yugoslavia remark on the Austrian feel of that city.

While Tyrol has its 4,000-year-old Austrian ancestor, Carinthia can boast of its rich Celtic background. At Magdalensberg in Carinthia the largest Celtic settlement in Europe has been excavated and it is an important archeological site.

Nowadays, the people of Carinthia are mostly farmers with small farms or workers in the economically important magnesite mines.

A small timber mill in Carinthia.



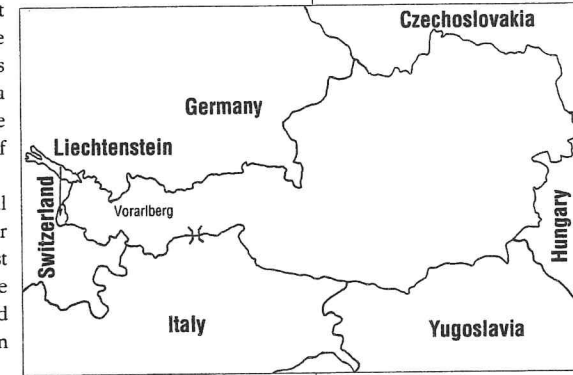
THE PEOPLE OF VORARLBERG

The Austrians of Vorarlberg live as close to Paris as they do to Vienna and this is one way of explaining the fact that the people of this most westerly province have an identity of their own. The German they speak sounds more like Swiss German than the typically Austrian German heard in most other parts of the country, which is not that surprising given that Zurich, the capital of Switzerland, is only an hour's drive away while Vienna would take a day's driving to reach.

Both the Swiss and the people of Vorarlberg are descended from the ancient German Alemannic tribes that dominated this part of Central Europe in the 3rd century B.C. This explains why the people of Vorarlberg have a dialect that is quite distinct from the German spoken in other parts of Austria.

Vorarlberg is the most traditional part of Austria where people still wear their traditional costumes—and not just for a tourist festival. There was a time when each valley community would have proudly displayed its own distinctive costume.

However, the process of modernization is making such distinctions of dress less and less meaningful. Nevertheless, the people of Vorarlberg are proud of their traditions and customs and they still retain an individuality that prevents Austrian culture from being completely homogeneous.



THE VIENNESE

Vienna is not just the capital of Austria but a province in its own right, holding over 20% of the country's population. There is also a significant Czech community numbering over 5,000 and a much larger number of foreign workers, mostly from Yugoslavia.

There is a stereotype of the Viennese citizen: elegant, sophisticated, artistic, a lover of classical music and cream pastries, one who studies newspapers for hours in a coffee house where smart waiters come and go balancing trays filled with glasses of water. As with so many aspects of Austrian culture, the explanation for this lies with history.

The Austrian Empire came to a sudden end after World War I, but imperial attitudes did not die quite so quickly. Vienna, once the capital city of a great empire, has taken on a rich cosmopolitan character. It was the one city most patronized by artists and intellectuals and even ordinary citizens felt a sense of being the aristocrats of Austria.



A little Austrian girl all dressed up to go to a wedding.

"Biegen, nicht brechen" (Bend, but do not break)
— The unofficial motto of the city of Vienna



A public ballroom concert. A reminder of the charm and elegance of Vienna in the 18th century.

In the 1990s the remnants of the imperial past can be recognized in the mentality of the Viennese, though a farmer from Vorarlberg might be more quick to dismiss such an attitude as pompous snobbery. In return, when the Viennese refer to Vorarlberg as *Ländle*, meaning "the little province," they are only being semi-affectionate for there is an element of big-city snobbery in their attitude to the agricultural province so far to the west.

The legacy of the past can also be seen in the Viennese telephone directory: foreign-sounding names that are obviously not German crop up regularly. Most families in Vienna probably have a grandmother or great-grandfather of Czech or Hungarian descent and the Viennese are proud of their rich cultural heritage.

MUSICAL AND ARTISTIC HERITAGE

The people of Austria exhibit their artistic nature in everything they do. Their wood-carvings, wrought iron work, glassware, lace and embroidery show that they have an eye for intricate patterns and elaborate designs. The pursuit of beautiful and fine workmanship can be seen in the detailed nature of their work.

Tree carvings in St. Wolfgang. The Austrians display their artistic skill in these tree carvings.



Vienna is synonymous with the art of music and any roll call of the world's greatest composers will include more musicians from Vienna than any other city. Haydn, Johann Strauss and son, Mozart, Schubert and Schönberg were all Austrians. The music of Vienna had a decisive effect on the form of the symphony and the string quartet and the city became the center for new symphonic writing. Beethoven settled there to work as a composer and so did Brahms. Mahler and Richard Strauss, though not Austrian by birth, are considered part of the country's musical life.

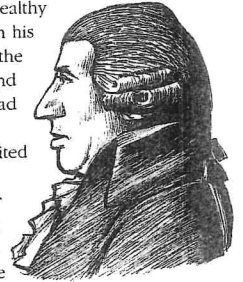
Music continues to play an important role in the lives of Austrians, from the folk dances of Tyrol to the studied elegance of performances by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and the Vienna State Opera. Tickets to the Opera House, and those of the Vienna Boys' Choir, are sold out months in advance and dedicated fans make their reservations a year in advance.

FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN (1732–1809)

Haydn spent his life in Burgenland under the patronage of two wealthy Hungarian princes and he lived in relative comfort and ease. In his time he became the idol of the European intelligentsia and, with the permission of his patron, made two famous trips to London and Ireland. He lived happily with the knowledge that "...I have had the good fortune to please almost everywhere..."

Haydn was interested in the structure of music and he is credited with developing the symphony into its present form.

He used folk dance music in his compositions and his *Emperor* string quartet, which was composed for the Austrian national anthem during the monarchy, has its musical origins in a foot-stomping dance for farmers. The dance rhythms are recognizable at the beginning and end of the piece. He also used the rustic country waltz *Ländler* in his symphonies and in the oratorio *The Creation*.

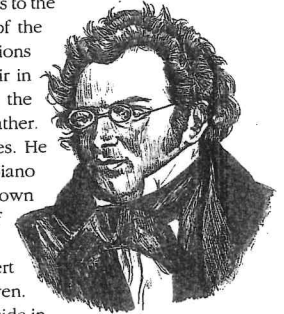


FRANZ SCHUBERT (1797–1828)

Schubert was born in Vienna, and except for brief excursions to the country never left the city. As a choir boy in the choir of the Imperial Court Chapel, he received one of the best educations available then in Vienna. He was dismissed from the choir in 1813 when his voice changed. He was too short to join the military service, and so became a school teacher like his father.

Schubert composed songs, operettas and choral pieces. He also wrote symphonies as well as dance pieces for piano, piano sonatas and chamber music. Some of his most well-known songs include *The Trout* and *The Erlking*—the tragic ride of a father trying to outdistance the Erlking, Death.

He was a great admirer of Beethoven and when Schubert died in November 1828, he was buried close to Beethoven. The remains of the two composers were reburied side by side in 1863. Ignored by the newspapers in Vienna when he was alive, the papers printed memorial poems about Schubert when he died. Often dismissed as only a song writer, he was really very versatile as his symphonies, sonatas and quartets have shown.



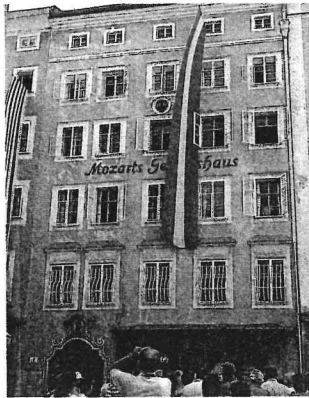
WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-1791)

Mozart was born in Salzburg, as any visitor to the city cannot fail to notice, but during his lifetime his genius was not appreciated by the people who lived there. When he died in poverty his wife was not even given the money to pay for his funeral and he was buried in a pauper's grave whose exact location remains unknown. There is no certainty that the skull preserved in the Mozarteum in Salzburg is really his.

Mozart excelled in every musical medium of his time and is the most universal composer in Western history. At the age of three he was playing the harpsichord and he took to the violin without any formal training. His first symphony was composed at the age of eight and as a child he toured Europe and visited England as a child prodigy. Despite such an auspicious childhood and such obvious talent he was not appreciated by the Archbishop of Salzburg for whom he worked. The middle class of Salzburg wanted to prevent him from going on tour and constant quarrels eventually led to his dismissal. Mozart was forced to

scratch out a living by traveling across Europe looking for work. At one stage he was appointed the Imperial and Royal Chamber Composer for the Hapsburg emperor Joseph II, but the grand title meant little for he was badly underpaid and soon found himself in debt.

The constant traveling took a toll on his health and he died in 1791 in Salzburg, singing strains from his last work, the *Requiem*. At the age of 35 he had composed 50 symphonies, 22 operas and innumerable other works. Some 30 years ago, 24 piano sonatas of his were discovered in the attic of a house in Vienna. Mozart's compositions are often identified by the letter "K." followed by a number. This "K." stands for Ludwig von Köchel, who cataloged Mozart's compositions into chronological order.



Mozart was not recognized for his greatness during his short life but his musical genius has been acclaimed all over the world after his death. For the first 100 years after his death, Mozart's name did not fade into oblivion but was kept alive because performances of his music were still being given to live audiences. With modern technology—such as radios, records, cassette tapes, compact discs and video tapes—Mozart's music has reached the far corners of the world and gained popularity in different cultures of the world, many of which Mozart himself would not even have known existed.

Although the music of Mozart is best known for its gaiety and liveliness it also possesses a melancholic strain and reflects the spirit of the Enlightenment.

His opera *The Marriage of Figaro* tells the tale of a struggle between a servant and a master and celebrates the dignity of the common man. Mozart himself angered the Archbishop by declaring that he, the musician, "probably had more nobility than a count."

In 1991, music centers from all over the world held performances of Mozart's work to commemorate the 200th anniversary of his death, from symphonic and chamber music to operas, sacred works and solo keyboard pieces.

In New York's Lincoln Center for example, all the city's 11 arts organizations combined their efforts to perform the entire catalog of Mozart's music. Lectures and exhibitions were also organized for school children—recognition surely, for a true musical genius.



"If it is true that I have talent, I owe it, above everything else, to my beloved city of Vienna...in whose soul is rooted my whole strength, in whose air float the melodies which my ear has caught, my heart has drunk in, and my hand has written down."

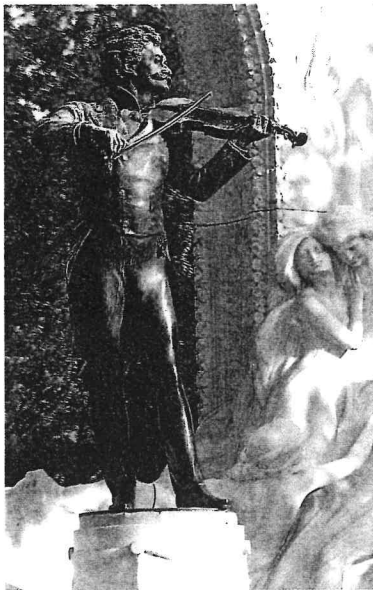
— Johann Strauss Sr., writing of his waltz music

STRAUSS, JOHANN, SR. (1804–1849) AND JOHANN, JR. (1825–1899)

Like the Hapsburg royal family who ruled the empire, the pair of father and son were the kings of Vienna's social dance life in the 1800s. Their music entertained at the cafés and outdoor gardens while customers (including other composers) had their coffee, beer and sausages.

Johann Sr. ran away from being a bookbinder's apprentice to study the violin and a bit of music theory. In his mid-20s he formed his own group and as his reputation spread, his orchestra became the official dance orchestra for Vienna court balls. His compositions include more than 150 waltzes as well as music for other dance forms of the day.

Johann Jr. (whose statue is shown above) immortalized Vienna with his famous *Blue Danube Waltz*. When his father died in 1849, he took over the orchestra and gained even greater popularity than his father. He toured as far as the United States and Russia. He also wrote operettas in addition to waltzes and dance music. When he died, the whole era of "Dancing Vienna" also came to an end.



The Waltz

THE WALTZ

The waltz, known as the *Ländler* before being christened the waltz, has its origin in Austria as a traditional dance in which partners came together in each other's arms and then turned with a hop and a step. It gained the interest of the upper classes but because they were always dressed in their fashionable costumes for appearances at court, the dance was gradually modified to suit the fact that their elegant dress was not comfortable or versatile enough to allow them to move so quickly. Also, the smooth ballroom floors were different from the stone floors where the dance originated and this too encouraged a slower movement.

What remained, though, was the close physical contact and, as the popular Viennese dance became the vogue in fashionable circles across Europe, it provoked critics. In 1818, the *Times* newspaper of London labeled it "that indecent foreign dance" and called on every conscientious parent to be aware of the moral danger of "so fatal a contagion." But at the time the partners in a waltz didn't actually come together that closely! It wasn't until the end of the 19th century that waltzers actually moved together in the close embrace that now characterizes the dance.

The most enduring and famous waltz music was composed by Johann Strauss Sr. in the first half of the 19th century, and then later by his son Johann Strauss Jr. who extended the range of the waltz so that the music became orchestral in character.

Waltzers in a public ballroom. In the 19th century, such dancing was labeled as indecent.

