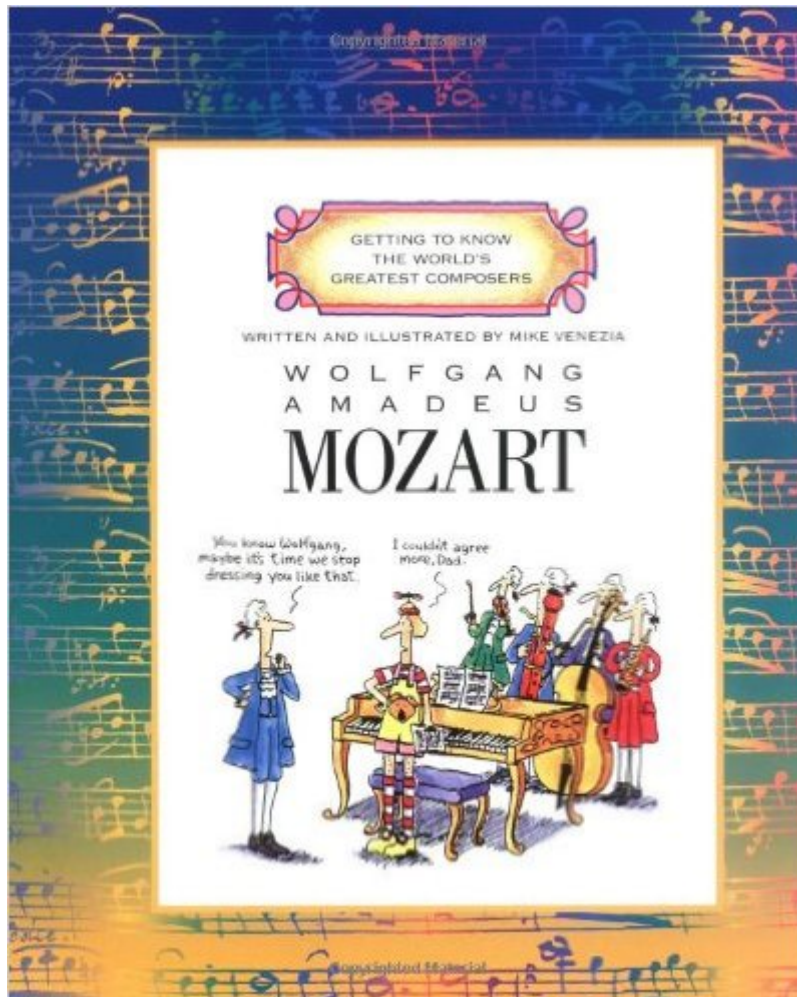


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Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (Getting To Know The World's Greatest Composers)



Synopsis

The author/illustrator of the highly successful Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists series lends his creative talents to another fun, informative series, this one featuring world-famous composers.

Book Information

Series: Getting to Know the World's Greatest Composers

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Childrens Pr (October 1995)

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Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 7.8 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #93,248 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Classical #24 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical

Age Range: 6 and up

Grade Level: 1 and up

Customer Reviews

Author Mike Venezia does a great job explaining biographies to children in a way that is both understandable and interesting. The writing style is not dumbed down or patronizing in tone. This is book is one in a series, others are about other musical composers and artists. The first few pages explain what the musical climate was like in Mozart's life and explains how people used music for entertainment purposes. This is brief and a very good opening to put Mozart's life in perspective. The rest of the book is a full span of Mozart's life. Unlike other books for children about Mozart, the fact that Mozart was a boy genius is not the main content of the book. Oddly, Mozart's children are never mentioned. Mozart's marriage is briefly mentioned as is Mozart's death. I have mixed feelings about the illustrations. I appreciated that the illustrations documented the various time periods of Mozart's life. I loved the illustrations that were photographs, fine drawings, or copies of fine paintings of the places Mozart visited, of Mozart and his family, and scenes of his operas. I did not at all like the eight cartoons whose illustrations and accompanying text were sarcastic and silly.

These eight cartoons were completely out of character with the text of the book and I didn't appreciate them at all. My children and I have enjoyed other books by this author that did not have dumb cartoons and jokes. My children, aged 4 and 6 haven't needed these silly and sometimes insulting jokes to make the subject matter enjoyable. The interesting biography's text and other illustrations are high quality and are better off without these cartoons. The cartoons downgrade my rating to a 4. I recommend this book and others by Mike Venezia to teach young children about important people in history.

I bought this to read to my 4 year old, who recently started piano lessons. As his teacher expects parents to make children listen to famous pieces my son had questions about the composers. This book gives nice summary of life of Mozart, kind of music popular at that time and other musicians who lived around that time. It also helps children understand the composer created his master pieces through hard work.

I am a homeschooling mother of two and is constantly looking for educational material. This is a great book, the illustrations are funny and kids love the humorous bits and pieces. The information is presented in a very effective manner. I started my children very early on with music theory and can honestly say that all the books in the series serves as a great introduction to this field especially for younger children (age 4 onward)

All of the "Getting to Know" books (whether about composers or artists) I have purchased have been very useful. A lot of information is presented in a concise and entertaining way. A valuable teaching tool for any classroom or home library.

We used this book with elementary students in our after school program. Since this year Mozart celebrated a special birthday, we decided to call our class Mozart Mania. First, the students purchased a copy of this book and read it. During our first after school session, the students watched the video The Magic Flute. For their second session, we reviewed Mozart's life by talking about the book, and then we played jeopardy game based on the book's content. The children were divided into three teams, had hand-held buttons to push, just like the real jeopardy game. The book was easy to read and loved by the students. Our third activity was to take the children to a Mozart concert played by the Lincoln Symphony. The book was a hit!

I can't say enough about this entire series. The cartoons make the books so much more interesting and fun for my girls. After trying one of them, I had to go back and buy several of the composers and artists. We homeschool and use them for art and music history. Before finding this, I had checked two local libraries, and nothing out there was anywhere as engaging. They are always excited to start a new one.

bought for grand children ... they love it along with other books for kids about classical composers and CD's that I picked for them. I also bought them a Cd player of their own so they can listen to various passages of music on their own ... they love it all and ask each other when hearing a piece whether it is Mozart or Beethoven or ... - grkids range from 4 to 9

Like all of Venezia's books, this is a great introduction to the musician. The story is in simple to understand language so young children can easily grasp what is being explained. The only caution I would give is in regards to the "comics." Considering a few incidents I've had with my preschool aged children, I would advise people to make sure to emphasize the make believe aspect of these parts when reading them to the younger children. For older children it is a great music appreciation lesson if you add some listening afterwards. With this book on Mozart I'd recommend listening to and reading about one of his opera's since at one point these are singled out for attention.

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