

Franz Joseph Haydn

(Pronounced High'-dn)



He was born at Rohrau, Austria, in 1732. His father was a wheel-maker, also sexton, organist and tenor in the village church.

At five years of age young Joseph began to show musical talent, and when thirty-two years old Prince of Esterhazy engaged him to provide two weekly operatic performances.

Years of hard work brought success and an invitation to visit England, where he was fêted and honored by the nobility.

Delightful fun in "Papa Haydn's" lighter music always pleased the people. A fine example of his humor may be found in the "Surprise Symphony" with its crashing chords to wake slumbering listeners.

Nobles and patrons of art in Vienna arranged a performance of "The Creation," his best known oratorio, to honor his 76th birthday. He died the following year in 1809.

Theme from Andante of the "Surprise Symphony"

Andante

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