

Mozart in Paris: a Musical Voyage



Wolfgang A. Mozart visited Paris three times during his short life.

His first stay in the *ville lumière* was not much more than a stopover on a long musical journey across Europe: Mozart is just seven years old and a child of prodigy enchanting his aristocratic hosts across the continent.

The second visit occurs three years later, in 1766, on the family's way back to Salzburg. Mozart refers to Paris as the “capital of taste and of the world”.

His final visit to Paris is at the same time the most intensive, most difficult – and saddest. Mozart is twenty-one and in desperate search for employment. He believes in great opportunities; but what has started with anticipation ends in a disaster.

And yet, also in difficult times Mozart writes music of ethereal beauty.

The presentation

We take you on an entertaining one-hour journey across 18th century-Europe. Images, anecdotes and Mozart's music accompany us from Salzburg to Paris, and back.

The presenter

Alexander Soucek is no historian, no musicologist and not even a musician, but he is a passionate listener of Mozart's music, an eager student of Mozart's life – and, coincidentally, born in the city of Salzburg, a few blocks of buildings (and a few centuries) from the Mozart family.

He works as a legal officer at the European Space Agency in Paris.

