

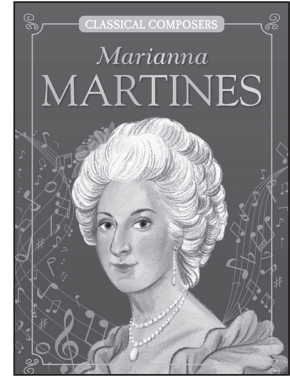
Classical Composers

Teaching with Marianna Martines

Guide written by Sofia Lasa

Introduction

Marianna Martines was a woman who grew up in Vienna a long time ago. She was born in 1744. Her house was special... music was everywhere! On the top floor lived a young man named Joseph Haydn, who would one day be a famous composer. On another floor lived her singing teacher, Nicola Porpora. Marianna's family friend, the poet Metastasio, saw that she was talented. He helped her get lessons. First, she learned piano from Haydn. Then, she learned to sing with Porpora. Soon she was writing her own music and by the time she was a teenager, Marianna was playing at the Austrian royal court and even writing big church pieces called Masses. People in many countries of Europe heard about her music, even though Marianna herself never left Vienna. In 1773, she became the first woman to join a famous music club in Italy. That was a big deal! Also, most musicians had rich bosses, called patrons, but Marianna worked for herself. Later, she even opened a school to teach other young women how to sing. Marianna's life was full and she never got married. She wrote music, gave concerts and taught students. She lived to be 68 years old. For a long time, people forgot about her, but now her music has been rediscovered and we can listen to it again.



Lexile: 640L Words: 863

DISCOVER *Marianna Martines's music online to play for students.*

<https://www.exploreclassicalmusic.com/marianna-martines/>



Vocabulary Review to supplement the Glossary

1. COMPOSER

Definition: A person who writes music.

Example: Martines composed Masses, motets and songs.

2. PRODIGY

Definition: A young person with exceptional talent.

Example: Martines was a child prodigy on the keyboard.

3. HARPSICHORD

Definition: A keyboard instrument that produces sound by plucking strings.

Example: Haydn played the harpsichord during Martines' singing lessons.

4. MOTET

Definition: A short piece of choral music.

Example: Martines wrote a motet for the Accademia Filarmonica.

5. PATRON

Definition: A person or supporter who provides money for musicians or artists.

Example: Unlike many musicians, Martines had no patron.

6. SALON

Definition: A gathering in a private home for music and conversation. .

Example: Martines hosted salons where musicians performed.!

7. REPRESENTATIVE

Definition: Someone who speaks or acts on behalf of another.

Example: Martines' father was a representative of the Pope in Vienna.

8. SURPASSED

Definition: Gone farther than or done better than expected.

Example: Critics wrote that Martines' performances surpassed expectations.

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. When and where was Marianna Martines born?

Answer: She was born on May 4, 1744, in Vienna, Austria.

2. Who helped guide Marianna's education and why was that important?

Answer: The poet Metastasio, a family friend, supported her studies. He arranged lessons with Joseph Haydn and Nicola Porpora, which gave her an outstanding musical education.

3. What did Martines accomplish before she turned 17?

Answer: She performed at the royal court, composed three Masses, and became known as a talented young musician.

4. What great honor did Martines receive in 1773?

Answer: She was elected to the Accademia Filarmonica in Bologna, becoming the first woman admitted.

5. How was Martines different from most musicians of her time?

Answer: She did not have patrons or work for a church or royal court. She composed and performed independently.

6. Why is Martines remembered today?

Answer: Her music, once forgotten, has been rediscovered since the 1990s, showing her talent and contributions as one of the few celebrated female composers of her era.

Activity: “Marianna’s Musical Building”

- Imagine you live in the same building as Marianna Martines in Vienna.
- Write a short story or diary entry about what you hear and see each day:
 - Joseph Haydn practicing in the attic.
 - Nicola Porpora teaching singing on another floor.
 - Marianna playing the harpsichord in her family’s apartment.
- Describe how the building sounds when all that music is happening at the same time.
- Use at least three vocabulary words (like composer, harpsichord, or prodigy).
- **Bonus:** Write what you would say to Marianna if you met her in the hallway and heard her practicing.

Music & Art Activities

- **Activity:** Students create a visual timeline of Martines’ life, marking key events such as her birth in 1744, lessons with Haydn, admission to the Accademia in 1773, and her rediscovery in the 1990s.
- **Goal:** To connect history, art and biography visually.

Evaluation Questions and Answers

Comprehension

1. What challenges did Marianna face as a woman in music?

Women at that time had fewer opportunities for education and careers, but Martines overcame those barriers through talent and support.

2. Why was Vienna an important place for Marianna’s career?

Vienna was the music capital of Europe, and many musicians visited or lived there, giving her constant exposure to talent and opportunity.

3. What made Martines stand out among musicians of her time?

She was one of the few women to achieve fame, she performed at court, and she was elected to a prestigious academy usually reserved for men.

Vocabulary

1. What is a harpsichord?

A keyboard instrument where strings are plucked.

2. What is a salon?

A private gathering for music, conversation, or art.

3. What does surpassed mean?

To go beyond what was expected