

Maria von Paradis-Info for Handout

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Info

- Born in Vienna May 15, 1759

-father = Joseph Anton von Paradis who worked as Imperial Secretary of Commerce for following...

-Maria named after Empress Maria Theresia

-Rosalia Maria Levassori della Motta = mom

- Went blind during childhood (2 = started, 5 = blind)

- Young “infant prodigy” as early as 1770

-Anton Mesmer = doctor who treated Maria with “magnetic” experimental cures, after 1777 was forced to stop due to rapid deterioration in her sight (made it worse)

- Studied with Salieri

- Piano virtuoso and singer

- Toured in Europe, didn’t perform as much after her Europe tour

-colleague status of Mozart = didn’t ever mention her in his letters even though she was quite a prominent figure

-B-flat Concerto dedicated to her

-Was often in same teaching/performing/societal circles as Mozart

- 1780s = started composing

-needed aid (Johann Riedinger) to help her with librettos and had a composition board invented by his aid = enabled her to write without paper

-some works = 5 operas, 12 piano sonatas, 2 piano sonatas (many scores lost)

- Composition board

-wood produced in the form of a board or sheet

-mostly used as building material

-William Mason first discovered way to produce wood in a plank-like state using a steam press to fuse together wood fibers

-effects on compositions = none really, regarded as having great “quality of her compositional output

-most famous compositions = *Rinaldo and Alcina*, *Sicilienne for piano and violin*, *Der Schulcandidat*, *Ariadne and Bacchus*, sonatas for violin and piano, piano trio, cantatas and songs

~ + two clips = one of Mozart Piano Concerto dedicated to her and one of her Sicilienne

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H607acFriuI> (1:55)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBA5yChMm0k> (beginning)