

PRO-MOZART
Society of Atlanta

Amadeus

November, 2026

Mozarteum Scholarship Winner Nov. 22

The 2026 Pro-Mozart Scholarship winner, Evan Wyatt, will perform a piano recital, 3 p.m. Sunday November 22 at St. John's Church at 550 Mt. Paran Road in Sandy Springs.

The Pro-Mozart Society enjoyed a Mozart-themed concert by the Choral Guild of Atlanta on Sunday, October 25, 2026. The Choral Guild is one of the oldest choral groups in Atlanta.

The Story of Mozart (continued)

Young Mozart and Women

Although the Mozarts were constantly near, working for or entertaining aristocracy, they themselves were not an aristocratic family. Rather, they were employees; when Wolfgang Amadeus was still a child, his father was employed by Lord Archbishop Sigismund of Salzburg. "Papa" Leopold was just a violinist and occasionally the assistant director of the Cathedral orchestra. As Wolfgang learned the violin, piano and organ, he, too, became an employee of the Salzburg Archbishop. One of his teachers

was a family friend, Herr Schachtner, who played the trumpet. The Archbishop permitted Leopold to take Wolfgang to Vienna to meet the Archduke, and when the Mozarts wanted to visit Italy, he helped to arrange a meeting with the Pope at the Vatican. They would often be gone for months at a time, or years as in the first tour.

Then a tragedy occurred when the Archbishop of Salsburg, who had been friendly to the Mozarts, allowing Leopold to travel with his son to various places, was transferred and replaced by a new archbishop. As Helen L. Kaufmann explains in her *Story of Mozart* (1955, Grosset & Dunlap), "Archbishop Colloredo came from the town of Gurk. Gurk in German means pickle. And the Archbishop of Gurk was as sour as a vinegar pickle." He made Mozart, who by now was writing music – much of it religious in nature – one of the concertmasters "in my orchestra. The orchestra will play for me every evening after supper. When there are guests, the orchestra will play during supper also. I never wish to hear the same piece twice." Upon issuing this command, the archbishop "took a pinch of snuff."

The archbishop was a violinist and knew what good music should sound like, but he did retain Leopold as assistant conductor. Wolfgang, now fifteen, was a popular teen in Salzburg, attending plays, balls and parties, and dancing with as many girls as he could. Nevertheless, Mozart despised the archbishop and went to Paris and Munich to be with his ill mother, remaining there until her death.

Young women played an important part in Wolfgang's youth, and he made close friends of female cousins whenever the Mozarts visited family, remaining especially fond of his sister, Nannerl. While in Naples, for example, he wrote to her (in German) "… and do keep well and or not die, so that you may do another letter for me and I may do another for you, and that we may keep on doing until we are done, for I am the man to go on doing until there is nothing more to do." Some of Wolfgang's writings, however, were graphically risqué, which was apparently the way people talked in the late eighteenth century.

In one trip to Venice Wolfgang encountered the Widor family, which contained four beautiful teenaged daughters. The Widor girls Wolfgang called "pearls." In Augsburg Mozart visited the Stein Piano Shop and played all the pianos. In Mannheim he was introduced to a copyist, Fridolyn Weber, who also had four lovely daughters. Mozart's parents were against this meeting, apparently considering the Webers as unsuitable for their

Wolfgang. The second oldest and most beautiful of the four, Aloysia, had a beautiful voice and sang operatic arias. In many of the operas Mozart wrote, the arias were designed to be sung by Aloysia. But her initial romantic response – but not her joy at singing Mozart's arias – crumbled when she met another man, Lange, that she liked better, and Mozart ended up marrying (against his father's wishes) her younger sister, Constanze. (A later cousin in this family was Karl Maria von Weber, also a well-known composer.)

By this time Mozart was residing in Vienna where he encountered other musicians and composers, including Hyden and Beethoven. In the city he could retain copyists for his compositions and a guaranteed audience for his operas, Once he had promised a patron a sonata, but had procrastinated in getting it printed, He played the sonata for the patron, who loved every note and asked to see the music; it was blank! Mozart had played it from memory.

One of Mozart's most popular operas was *The Abduction from the Seraglio,* involving an escape from a Turkish stronghold, and Mozart was kept constantly busy writing symphonies, concertos, sonatas and operas, but spending lavishly almost any money he ever received for his compositions. The Weber family was not wealthy, and the Mozarts lived in near poverty.

Next month we will review Mozart's great variety of musical types.