



COMPOSER BIOGRAPHY

**FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN**

BORN: March 1, 1810

ERA/STYLE: Romantic

DIED: October 17, 1849

HOMETOWN: Zelazowa Wola, Poland

Frédéric Chopin was born in a small town near Warsaw, Poland, in 1810. His father, a teacher, was French and his mother was Polish. They were both musical and well educated. When Chopin was 6 years old, he began studying piano; he played a concerto in public just two years later, at the age of 8. He entered the Warsaw Conservatory of Music at age 16.

By the time Chopin was 17, he was known as the best pianist and composer in Poland. He loved his native country passionately, and many of his compositions include Polish folk tunes and songs. In 1829, while he was performing concerts in Paris, the Russians invaded his home country of Poland. This made it difficult for Chopin to return to Poland, so he remained in Paris for the rest of his life.

Chopin has been called "the Poet of the Piano." Most of his delicate, poetic compositions were written for solo piano and helped make the piano a successful solo instrument.