



COMPOSER BIOGRAPHY

**FRANZ SCHUBERT**

BORN: January 31, 1797

ERA/STYLE: late Classical–early Romantic

DIED: November 19, 1828

HOMETOWN: Vienna, Austria

Franz Schubert was born in Vienna, Austria in 1797. At the age of 5 his father began to teach him to play the violin. His older brother taught him the piano, and his parish organist taught him voice, theory and organ. Schubert was an eager learner, and his musical talents were quickly recognized. At the age of 11, because Schubert was also an excellent singer, he was asked to join the Imperial Court Chapel Choir as a boy soprano. He sang in the choir until his voice changed in 1812 which ending his career in singing. Schubert then studied to be a teacher. In 1814, he was accepted as a teacher in his father's school and he taught children in the primary level for three years. Although his time was limited during this period, he did not forget the music he loved, and he wrote many pieces.

Schubert did not enjoy spending his time teaching. He did enjoy spending his time with his many friends. Most of his friends were wealthy and convinced him to leave his teaching position and concentrate on his music. His wealthy friends looked after his needs, providing him money, food, and a place to stay. In the evenings they would gather in homes to hear Schubert's music. These gatherings were called "Schubertiades." Often famous singers would come to sing his songs while he accompanied them.

In his short lifespan of just 31 years, Schubert was a prolific composer. He wrote almost 1000 works during his short career. The largest number of these are songs. He wrote six hundred romantic songs, as well as many operas, symphonies, sonatas and other works. Today, with his imaginative, lyrical and melodic style, he is counted among the most gifted composers of the 19th century.