

Classical Destinations: The Great Composers (Series 1)

6 x 60'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. J.S. Bach

Johann Sebastian Bach worked in many of the German states, until he finally made his home in the ancient Saxon city of Leipzig. There he created some of the greatest music ever written, like the St Matthew Passion.

2. G.F. Handel

George Frideric Handel, travelled much more widely after his birth in Halle in the Southern part of Saxony. As a young firebrand, he went to Italy where he created a sensation before settling in London for the last 40 years of his life. There a series of superb concertos, operas, and oratorios poured out of him: Messiah is simply one of dozens of immortal vocal masterpieces he produced there.

3. W.A. Mozart

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Austria, in Salzburg. As a child prodigy, he was touted about the courts of Europe by his father, playing violin and piano in all the courts of Europe. The last ten years of his life were spent in the centre of the musical world, in Vienna, where he died, impoverished and unmourned; it was Prague that really recognised his genius.

4. L. van Beethoven

Ludwig van Beethoven spent most of his life in Vienna, though he was born in Bonn, then a small provincial town. Early deafness robbed him of a performing career, but his world-shattering achievements as a composer changed music forever.

5. F. Chopin

Warsaw and Paris were the cities at the heart of Frédéric Chopin's world: he was one of the first great piano virtuosos, and his piano music helped usher in a new romantic spirit across all the

arts. Though he appreciated the sophisticated life of the French capital, the music, fierce and passionate, that grew out his love of his native land shook his audiences to the core.

6. E. Grieg

Edvard Grieg, who, like Chopin, wasn't afraid to express a new sense of national identity in his art. Grieg's music breathes the air of Norway, illustrating the northern nation's landscape, climate, and folklore