

The story of the lives of half of these it would be impossible to give within the limits of an essay. Bach, the father and founder of modern German music, spent most of his uneventful life at Weimar and Leipsic. In his own day he was known far and wide as a learned composer, a brilliant improviser, and an organist beyond rivalry. It was left to succeeding generations to recognize in him creative powers as a musical thinker.

Handel, the second great hero in the world of music, though born in Germany, and receiving his artistic education there, is by association English. Living in England in the time of the second George, he was contemporary and associate of Johnson and Garrick, Swift and Savage, Addison and Steele, Gay, Pope, and Arbuthnot. To the modern mind his name is linked with the oratorios, yet for fifteen years after his coming to England he struggled heroically in the composition of Italian operas and these created as great a furore then as an opera from Gounod or Verdi would in the present day. Among the operatic singers of his day Handel was known for his irascible temper. The celebrated Madame Cuzzoni, who made her debut in his "Otto," sometimes gave him trouble through her whimsicalities and insolence. Declining one day to sing an air he had given her, Handel flew at her and shook her like a rat. "Ah, I always knew you were a fery tevil," he cried, "and I shall now let you know that I am Beelzebub, the prince of de tevils," and dragging her to an open window was on the point of pitching her into the street, when, in every sense of the word, she recanted.

Handel's fame rests on his great Oratorios, Messiah, Israel in Egypt, Judas Maccabeus, Samson and others. He died in London, 1759, and was interred with England's warriors, statesmen and poets, in Westminster Abbey. His statue is one of the most beautiful ornaments of that famous resting place.

Gluck may justly claim the title of founder of the modern opera. His most celebrated operas were written for the Grand Opera, in Paris. A foolish rivalry

existed between himself and Piccini, the representative of the Italian School of Music, which divided all Paris. In the streets, coffee-houses, private houses and even schools, the merits of Gluck and Piccini were canvassed.

Haydn is the father of that class of musical composition called the symphony. An Austrian by birth, Haydn's musical career began when he was eight years of age. He was one of the most prolific composers that has ever lived. His two great oratorios, the Creation, and the Seasons, the last founded on Thomson's poem, are the most popular compositions of their kind at the present day. The last time Haydn appeared in public was to hear "The Creation," of his younger days. He, old and feeble, had to be wheeled in a chair into the theatre. The presence of the old man roused intense enthusiasm among the audience, which could be no longer suppressed as the chorus orchestra burst in full power upon the superb passage, "and there was light." Amid the tumult of the enraptured audience, the old composer was seen striving to raise himself. Once on his feet he mustered all his strength and in reply to the applause of the audience he cried out as loud as he was able: "No, no! not from me but," pointing to heaven, "from thence—from heaven above comes all!" Saying which, he fell back in his chair, faint and exhausted, and had to be carried from the room.

Mozart, in his youth, was a musical prodigy. When not five years old, his father one day found the child bending over a music score. In answer to the enquiry what he was doing, he said he was writing a concerto for the piano. Examining it, tears of joy and astonishment rolled down the father's face on perceiving its accuracy. "It is good, but too difficult for general us," said a friend who was present. "Oh! it must be practised till it is learned," said the young Mozart. "This is the way it goes," so saying, he played it with perfect correctness. About the same time he offered to play the violin at a performance of some chamber music. His father refused.