

MOZART.

16. At three years of age, he would amuse himself by picking out chords upon the harpsichord; at four he could play minuets correctly, at five was a composer, at eight had completed a symphony, at nine he had become an accomplished violinist and organist, and at ten his first opera and two concertos were written.

17. His home life fostered all that was good and true in him and sweetened the first notes he put in musical order. He was as much at court in his boyhood as Handel was in his old age. The account of his Italian tour reads like a dream or fairy tale. Despite the fact that his career in childhood and youth was of the greatest brilliancy and success, his life from the time he reached manhood was a life of defeat, poverty and distress. In regard to his financial troubles, it must be said, he was careless, extravagant and generous to a fault.

18. Everywhere he was received as a prince. He was commissioned while at Milan to write an opera. This production was the greatest event of his life. A boy of fourteen conducted to his own music, amid applause, the largest orchestra in Europe. He stood on a chair to wield the baton. The flowers that were rained upon him nearly covered the lad from view.

19. "Don Giovanni," "Magic Flute," "Figaro's Wedding," and the sublime "Requiem," composed in anticipation of death.

20. Mozart is the world's greatest musical genius, having composed in his short life nine hundred and twenty-two compositions. He wrote in every possible form of music. His knowledge of counterpoint was something marvelous.