

# **An Analysis of Amy Dunker's *Homage to W. A. Mozart***

**By**

**Amy Dunker**

[www.amydunker.com](http://www.amydunker.com)

**Instrumentation:** Standard String Orchestra

**Duration:** 4 Minutes

**Grade:** 4

**Harmonic Language:** Neotonal

**Meter:** 4/4

**Texture:** Homophony, Imitation, Counterpoint

**Composition Date:** 2005

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## **Composer Bio:**

Composer-trumpeter-educator Amy Dunker's music resists easy categorization. From avant-garde improvisation to minimalistic sound sculptures to neo-romantic echoings, Amy delves deeply into the nature of human experience. Her works have been performed throughout the United States, Czech-Republic, Italy, the Ukraine, France, Thailand, Japan, Mexico, Germany, Great Britain, and Puerto Rico. Amy Dunker is an Associate Professor of Music at Clarke College where she teaches composition, theory, aural skills and trumpet. Amy received her bachelor's degree (music education) from Morningside College, a master's degree in trumpet performance from the University of South Dakota, a master's degree in composition from Butler University and a doctorate in composition from the University of Missouri-Kansas City – Conservatory of Music. Major influences in her musical education include Stanley DeRusha, Chen Yi, James Mobberley and Michael Schelle. Amy's works have been recorded on the ERM Media, NextAGem, Centerpoint and Whatsit labels. Her music is published by Alliance Publications, Inc.

## **Other String Orchestra Works by Amy Dunker:**

### **Strings Around the World Series:**

African Serenade (Grade 3 ½)	AP – 4122
Bossa Nova Brazil! (Grade 3)	AP – 4114
Brazil! (Grade 3)	AP – 4109
Cumbia! Cumbia! (Grade 3)	AP – 4106
Gvovi (Grade 2)	AP – 4110
Golden Ring Dance (Grade 2)	AP – 4116
Raga India (Grade 4)	AP – 4108
Reggae Jamaica (Grade 3)	AP – 4124
Rondo on a Puerto Rican Folk Song (Grade 1)	AP – 4121
South Africa Sings (Grade 3)	AP – 4115
Tango Loca (Grade 4)	AP – 4118
Tanz! (Grade 3)	AP – 4118
The Mambo Kings (Grade 3)	AP – 4119
Tribute to the Mariachi (Grade 3)	AP – 4117

### **Strings Today Series:**

As Darkness Falls (Grade 4)	AP - 4111
Homage to W. A. Mozart (Grade 4)	AP – 4112
Rain Sketch (Grade 3)	AP – 4123

## **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart:**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (27 January 1756 – 5 December 1791) was a prolific and influential composer of the Classical era. He composed over 600 compositions including symphonies, operas, piano and chamber music. The central traits of the classical style can all be identified in Mozart's music. Clarity, balance, and transparency are hallmarks of his work.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born to Leopold and Anna Maria Pertl Mozart in Getreidegasse 9 in Salzburg in what is now Austria.. His only sibling who survived past birth was his sister Maria Anna (1751-1829), called "Nannerl". Wolfgang was baptized the day after his birth at St. Rupert's Cathedral. The baptismal record gives his name in Latinized form as Joannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart. Mozart's father Leopold Mozart (1719–1787) was deputy Kapellmeister to the court orchestra of the Archbishop of Salzburg and a composer and teacher.

Mozart was a child prodigy, playing the clavier and composing music. He began composing pieces at the age of five. From an early age, Mozart had a gift for imitating the music he heard. His travels provided him with a rare collection of experiences from which to create his unique compositional language.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolfgang\\_Amadeus\\_Mozart](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolfgang_Amadeus_Mozart) (accessed 02/14/08).

For more information regarding Mozart's life, go to the following web-sites:

<http://www.mozartproject.org/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolfgang\\_Amadeus\\_Mozart](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolfgang_Amadeus_Mozart)

### **Requiem Mass:**

The Requiem (Latin: requiem) or Requiem Mass, also known as the Missa pro defunctis or Missa defunctorum, is a liturgical service of the Roman Catholic Church. The common theme of requiems is prayer for the salvation of the soul of the departed, and it is used both at services immediately preceding a burial, and on occasions of remembrance.<sup>2</sup>

### **Mozart's *Requiem Mass in D minor, K. 626*:**

The *Requiem Mass in D minor, K. 626* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was composed in 1791. The requiem was Mozart's last composition, and is one of his most powerful and recognized works. However, there is much debate over how much of the music Mozart managed to complete before his death, and how much was later composed by his colleague Franz Xaver Süssmayr.

The Requiem Mass in D minor (K. 626) was commissioned by Count von Walsegg as a memorial for his wife, Anna, who passed away on February 14, 1791 at the age of 20. Franz Xaver Süssmayr probably completed the requiem sometime in March of 1791. The work was performed on December 14, 1793 in memory of the Count's wife in the church at Wiener-Neustadt<sup>3</sup>.

### **Notes:**

Homage to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was inspired by melodic material taken from the opening statement of Mozart's *Requiem in D minor, K. 626*. It is designed to introduce students not only to motivic ideas of the great master, but to also serve as a bridge to harmonic ideas from their own era. The work transcends time and asks, "What would Mozart have done with the modern harmonic languages of this century?"

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<sup>2</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Requiem> (accessed 02/14/08).

<sup>3</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Requiem\\_\(Mozart\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Requiem_(Mozart)) (accessed 02/14/08).



**Theme 1 (Cello, ms. 13 - 15):**



**Theme 2 (Violin I, ms. 25 - 29):**



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