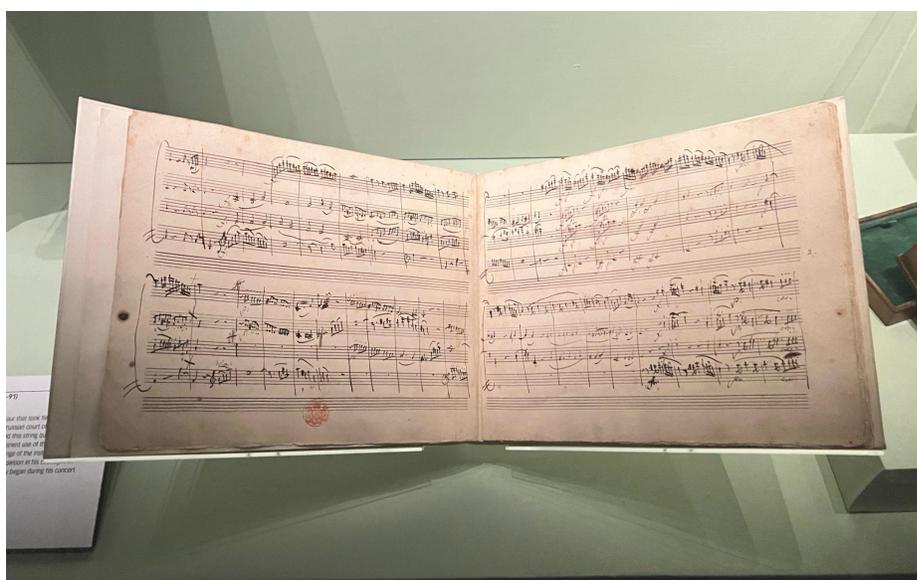


## Across Time and Music

Arrington Goode

The notes dance across the page with whimsy. In a dimly lit room, inside the British Library, sits Mozart's *String Quartet in D Major*. The book full of masterful music is cracked open to the page and the piece is sitting right in front of the viewer. The room is chilly with a bright beaming light shining down and illuminating the piece. A solid glass wall obstructs the viewer and the piece. A small card next to it tells a short story about music and how the piece came to be. Other people are walking around silently taking in the timeless work in front of them. The pages of the book are worn down and aged. The book has lived many lives

throughout history, each one having a long lasting impact on music and people forever.

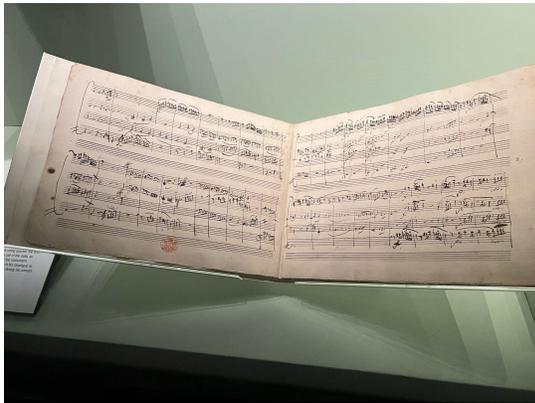


According to the British Library, the piece was completed during Mozart's concert tour likely around June 1789. On this tour, Mozart traveled across European countries

and cities like Berlin and Leipzig. Seeing this profound piece of music brought back memories of my own childhood and how much music was a part of it. For eight years, the violin brought a challenge to my childhood. With each year, I had to learn harder and harder pieces of music. As Mozart traveled across Europe, similarly I traveled to many places to hold concerts to play different pieces of music. Music, particularly classical music like the *String Quartet in D Major*, helped shape my relationship and appreciation with music in general. Early in my musical career, we heavily studied Mozart and his impact on music. This is why seeing younger students, in the Library, learning about these pieces made it apparent how important learning about music at a young age can be.

Learning about music from an early age, helps the younger generation appreciate and develop a better sense of the world around them. Seeing groups of kids quietly walking around the room staring at these pieces brought warmth to my heart. When you take the time to

develop this awareness, you learn to appreciate music in today's society. Understanding history is the key to understanding the present. As I walked through the dark room and looked at the Mozart piece, I began to remember how much of my life revolved around playing an instrument. While I do not play it anymore, learning it gave me a lot of skills that I still use today. Children today are just starting out on their musical journey and they are about to learn a variety of skills that will help them later in life. Music throughout childhood teaches you discipline, work ethic, mindfulness, and teamwork. These early life lessons prepare the child to take on the world in ways they do not even think about. Even Mozart had to practice and perfect his craft while he was a child. Even when someone moves away from classical music, they have this innate appreciation for any classical music they are exposed to.



As we, as children, grow up we are exposed to many things. Music is always a place where they can come back to. Many people do not lose their ability to play their instrument for a long time. Even if they forget, they still have some knowledge on the subject. As the teenage years come into view, classical music can expand and become a way for someone to experience many different types of music. The teenage years are full of people finding themselves one way or another.

Throughout my teenage years, I continued playing the violin. Many others also stayed with their instruments and used them as a way to connect to the world around them. The life skills that they built during childhood are now coming into play. The foundational notes of their lives are now being strung together into a beautiful piece of music. Music is a core building block in many children's lives. They take those building blocks and bring them into their teenage years where they then can expand on them through music or go on a different path. During highschool is when many people start learning harder pieces of music. In Junior year, I learned a piece titled *Perseus* by Soon Hee Newbold. That piece was very difficult to learn but it taught me how to take on a task and break it down into manageable parts. This directly correlates to them learning harder and more complicated topics about life. Highschool is the time where our problems change and we experience new issues. As we grow, we soak in knowledge and experience. The crescendo of learning music mirrors the crescendo of life.

The end of the teenage years brings about early adulthood. While this stage is very different for many people, one thing stays true. The musical lessons learned throughout childhood have built the foundation for the rest of our lives. Early adulthood is the time in our lives where we use the knowledge we have gained and start putting it into practice. Classical

music and playing an instrument have instilled an appreciation for music and learning during childhood and now we have the opportunity to show it. During my early adulthood years, I stopped playing the violin but I forever kept my love of music. After my eight years of playing I realized I needed to take on new challenges. Music was always going to be there for me. The mindfulness and teamwork that I learned helped me to communicate my ideas a lot more proficiently. As we grow, music grows with us just in different ways. Seeing the Mozart piece brought back how and why I look at all music through a unique lens. That Mozart was an establishing piece that many musicians took inspiration from. Everything references something else. Mozart inspired many pieces created that I would go on to spend many hours perfecting. While some people do not relate to playing an instrument, many can recognize the time and dedication it takes to learn something. Many children choose an instrument and it carries them until they are ready to let it go. However, they never truly let it go.

*String Quartet in D Major* changed the course of my life and many others. Classical music is a mirror to the lives of children. Each generation has a chance to understand music in a deeper sense. The concert halls across the world are dimly lit. The crowd and the performer are sitting away from each other as if they are separated by a solid glass wall. Each musician is opened up like a book. The audience and I are the readers.

