

Biography of the Composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

- 1756: born in Salzburg on 27 January. Wolfgang started playing the piano and composing at the age of 5. His father Leopold, a well-known violin teacher, provided early musical training. Wolfgang was a child prodigy and travelled all over Europe on concert tours with his father and sister.
- 1769: Concert master and later court composer to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg.
- 1770: awarded the Order of the Golden Spirit in Rome.
- 1781: left the service of Colloredo in Salzburg, moved to Vienna and remained as a freelance musician.
- 1791: died in Vienna on 6 December, the age of 35. Mozart composed many great works, in almost every genre, and his pieces are still some of the most beloved music in the world. He was one of the most versatile of all time.

History of the work **The Magic Flute**

First performed on 30 September 1791 at the *Freiburgstheater auf der Wieden*, a theatre on the outskirts of Vienna.

Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder.

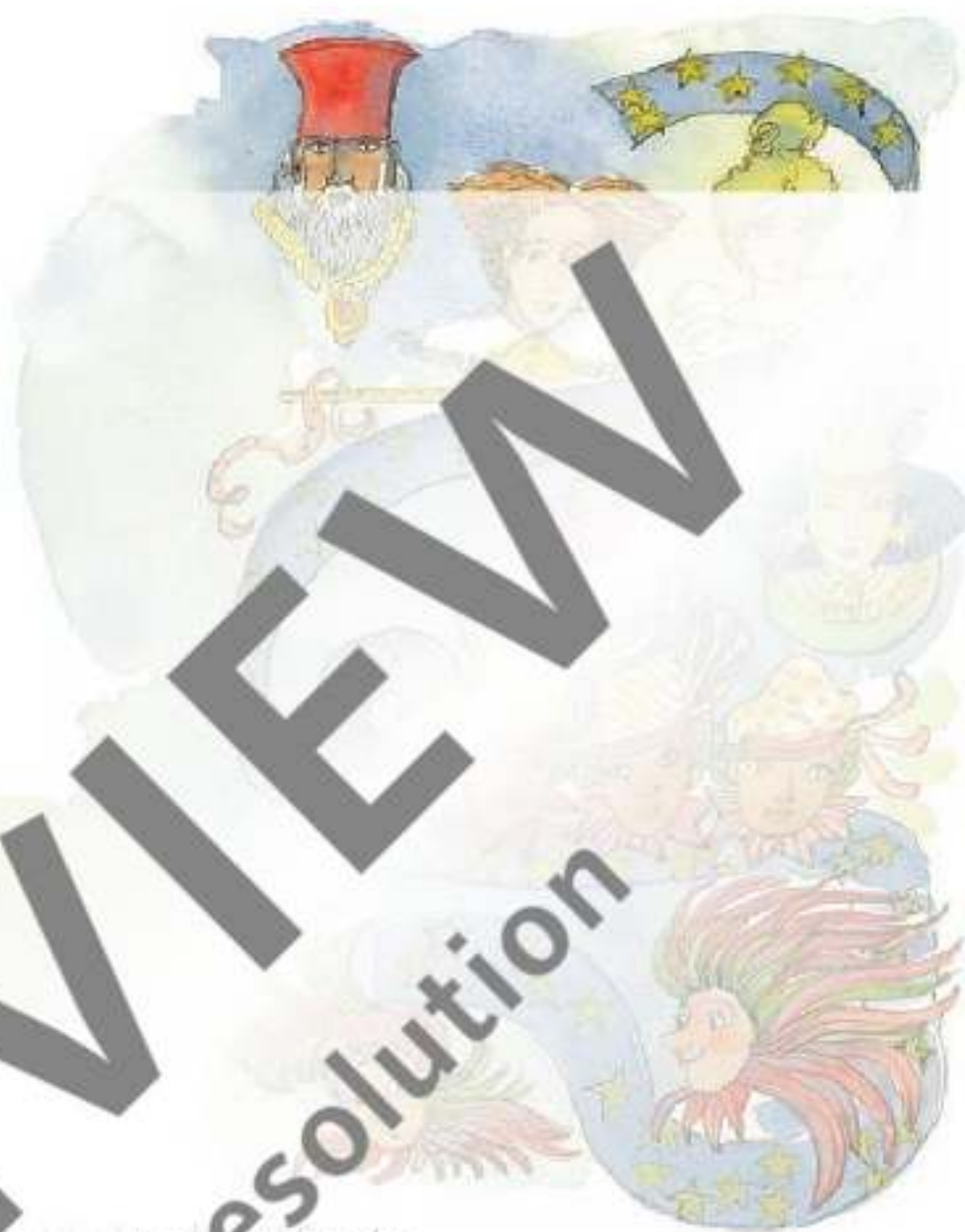
Characters

Sarastro
Tamino
Speaker
First priest
Second priest
Third priest
Queen of the Night
Pamina, her daughter
First lady
Second lady
Third lady
First boy
Second boy
Third boy
Papageno
Papagena
Monostatos
First armoured man
Second armoured man
Three slaves

Setting

The realm of the Queen of the Night and the kingdom of Sarastro,
in a fairytale era

PREVIEW
Low Resolution



The Plot

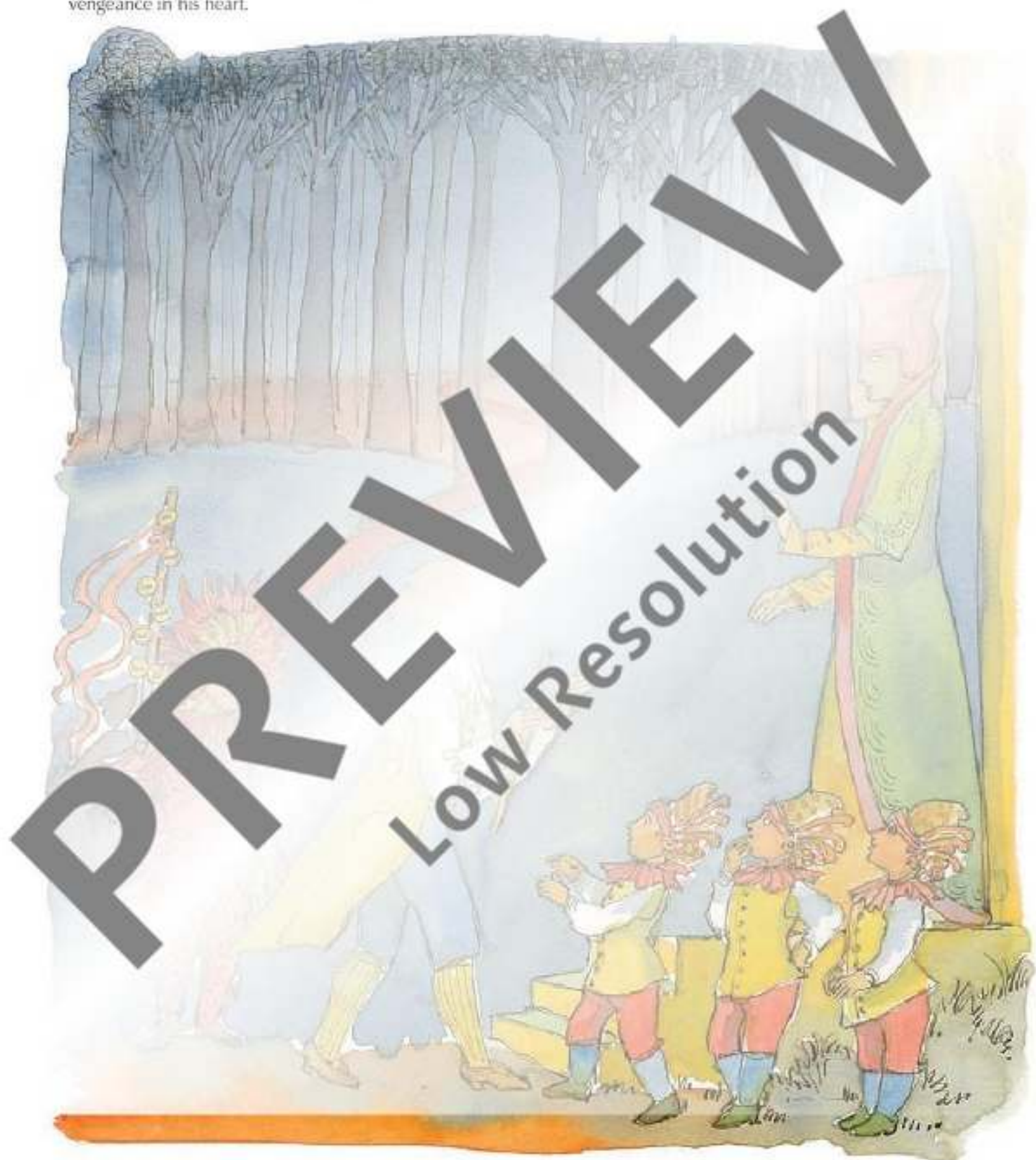
Act I

Prince Tamino, who is out hunting in a rocky gorge, is attacked by a monstrous serpent (**Oh help me! Oh help me! Or else I must perish**). He faints in terror. Three ladies, attendants of the Queen of the Night, rescue him and fall in love with him. Unable to agree on who should watch over him, eventually all three of them go to tell the Queen of the Night what has happened. When Tamino wakes up, he finds the serpent dead and wonders who has saved him. A young man wearing birds' feathers appears, introducing himself as Papageno, bird-catcher to the star-flaming Queen' (A bird-catcher is what I am). He boasts that of course he was the one who saved the prince from the terrifying serpent.

Three ladies appear and fasten a padlock to Papageno's mouth, proving that he has been lying. They give Tamino a portrait of the Queen's daughter. Tamino immediately falls in love with the beautiful Pamina, who – as the ladies explain – is held prisoner in Sarastro's temple (This portrait is an enchanting fair).

Sarastro, the high priest, orders the Queen of the Night on her stony throne. She promises Tamino her daughter's hand in marriage if he agrees to marry her. He agrees immediately. The three ladies remove the padlock from Papageno's mouth and give him a bird's nest. To protect them from danger, the three ladies give Tamino a magic flute and Papageno a

Three boys are to go with them. These boys urge Tamino to be steadfast, forbearing and discreet. When they reach Sarastro's three temples, Tamino wants to force his way in, but magical voices hold him back. A priest steps towards him from the temple of wisdom. Tamino tells him why he has come and accuses Sarastro of having kidnapped Pamina. The priest tells him that Sarastro is a wise and good ruler, and that Tamino will never be allowed into the temple while he has vengeance in his heart.



(Those men who feel the force of passion)

An unseen temple chorus tells Tamino that Pamina is alive. Rejoicing, he plays the magic flute and to his astonishment sees wild animals emerging quite tamely from their lairs (**The power of your magic notes**). Papageno and Pamina hear the flute playing, too, and almost fall into the clutches of Monostatos, servant of Sarastro. He wants to take them both captive but the sound of the magic bells makes him dance away (**That sound is so lovely**).

(Every good, courageous man needs a set of bells like this)

Tamino recognizes Pamina and embraces her happily. Sarastro punishes Monostatos for his disobedience. Sarastro explains to Pamina that it is better for her not to be returned to her mother. Then Tamino and Pamina undergo a series of ordeals for a ceremony of purification.

