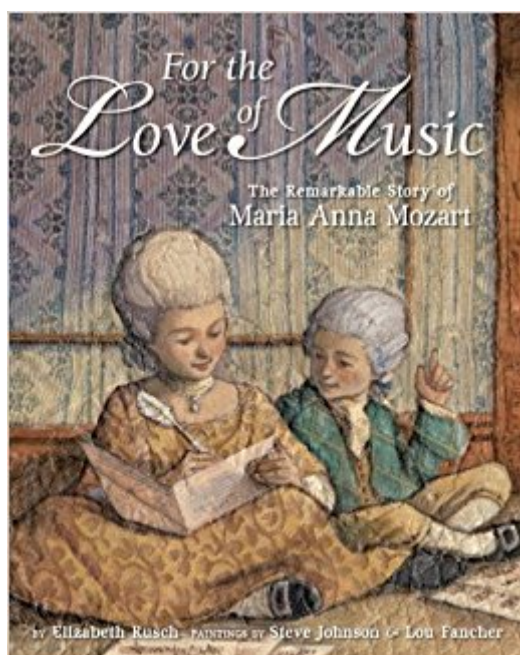


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# For The Love Of Music: The Remarkable Story Of Maria Anna Mozart



## Synopsis

By the time she was 12, she was considered one of the finest pianists in Europe, but today few people know her name. Maria Mozart, like her famous brother Wolfgang, was a musical prodigy. The talented siblings toured Europe, playing before kings and empresses, were showered with gifts and favors, and lived in a whirlwind life of music and travel. They were best friends, collaborators, and confidantes. As they grew older, Wolfgang was encouraged to pursue his musical ambitions, while Maria was told she must stop performing and, ultimately, marry. But she was determined to continue playing the piano every day, for the love of music . . . .

## Book Information

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Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Grade 2 **•** Maria Anna Walpurga Ignatia Mozart was a musical prodigy in her own right and shared considerable childhood fame with her younger brother, Wolfgang. This picture-book biography quickly sketches the siblings' close relationship and their long European concert tour and then goes on to tell in greater detail about her quiet growing-up and adult years as her brother quickly rose to prominence. Rusch organizes the account into short segments labeled with musical terms designating the units of a sonata **•** "The First Movement," "Allegro," "Development," "Cadenza," "Finale." The concluding author's note, "Encore," is a two-page

biography threaded with explanations of the 18th-century limitations on women's participation in the music world. Johnson and Fancher add warmth and texture to the story, blending collage and painting on canvas. Costumes and backgrounds incorporate brocade fragments, and bits of music scores frame carriages, musical instruments, and building features. Text is on inset pages that appear to be crumbling and fading, as though taken from a very old book. Catherine Brighton's picture book *Mozart, Scenes from the Childhood of the Great Composer* (Doubleday, 1990) is narrated by Nannerl, as she was called by her family, and gives a richer account of the famous childhood tour. Maria's long, relatively uneventful life, emphasized here, is hardly the remarkable story promised in the subtitle, but this attractive book offers a peek at women's history and will serve where more is needed on the Mozarts. —Margaret Bush, Simmons College, Boston (c) Copyright 2011. — Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

One of the most celebrated pianists of her time, Mozart's elder sister, Maria Anna, is largely unsung in our day. Rusch follows the structure of a piano sonata in this picture-book biography, from the First Movement, when the sibling child geniuses are discovered, through their sforzando and fermata periods, to the Finale, which finds Maria left behind by Wolfgang's fame and early death. The strict musical form feels forced and interferes with the natural flow of the text; a more fluid, complete, and interesting telling of Maria Anna's story appears in an appended, two-page author's note. More deserving of applause are the accomplished illustrations, which interpret the 200-year-old atmosphere with vivid detail and set the central characters against a collage background of rich fabrics and musical notation. With few youth titles available about Maria Anna, this attractive offering fills a gap in youth collections. Grades 1-3. —Andrew Medlar

I'll say up front that I loved this book, so much so that I bought myself a copy. Not only are the illustrations a gorgeous combination of fabric collage, paper, and oil and acrylic on canvas, but the writing follows the parts of a piano sonata. Even those who do not particularly care for classical music know who Mozart is, but I did not realize that at first, his sister was as famous as he was. Clearly Maria had a gift for playing the piano. Unfortunately for her she lived in an era when women were expected to marry and have children, not have a career. What I especially admired about her was that she continued to play and nourish her gift and passion despite having the opportunity to share her gift with the world taken away. This book provides a glimpse into the mind and heart of a

brother and sister who not only shared a love for music, but love for each other. A great story about finding a way to pursue one's dreams whatever the limitations life puts on you. I highly recommend this book.

i found this book at the library, and decided to purchase a copy for my daughter. i like mozart, but i particularly liked this true story of his sister and her influence on him. the story is told in an interesting way, with subtle musical references that introduce these concepts, and filled with beautiful, rich tapestry and illustrations that communicate the era and the story line. it's short and simple enough for a child to read in one sitting, and with enough interesting details at the end so older kids can do more research. the writer and illustrators obviously love their subject, and it's delightful to get caught up in their presentation.

What a beautiful and creative book! Gorgeous illustrations that fit the time period setting of the book. I really loved how the book's segments were divided using musical terms. The idea of families helping and loving one another was great too. Even famous people have FAMILIES, who help and love each other. Please more outstanding picture books like this.

A colleague and I used this for our four-day summer piano camp with our elementary and middle school-age students. We also used the free on-line lesson plans and the Mozart Fur Nannerl: Piano Compositions for Two and Four Hands recording as supplements. Our students LOVED this little study!

What a shame that girls and women did not have the opportunity to become as famous as their brothers!!! Here is a story of a very ambitious little girl who loved music...only to be placed in the shadows of her brother.

Beautiful artwork and lovely story. My kids are fascinated with the story and I appreciate the facts at the end of the book.

Interesting

Delighted with the charming book. Loved the illustrations.

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