"Never fear, Haydn is here—nothing can happen."

Joseph Haydn, 1819, in his reaction to an artificial landing in front of his house.

Numerous visitors from home and abroad paid their respects to the famous composer of his time, among them fellow composers and agents of music publishers. The permanent exhibition connects the private life of this musical genius with the political and social context of his time. In addition, the garden of the house in the historic part of Vienna has been refurbished, based on the interior design of the middle classes around 1800.

Franz Schubert was born in this house on 31 January 1797. The apartment was hardly conceived for such a large family, consisting of only one room and a "Rauchkuchl"—a little smokehouse-kitchen with open fire. Today a major part of the top floor is devoted to the composer's memory. It provides a moving and graphic documentation of his musical development, his circle of friends and important stations of his life. The most fascinating exhibit for many of the visitors: Schubert's spectacles.

Franz Schubert lived here several weeks as his brother's guest in an apartment consisting of two rooms and a cabinet study on the second floor of the Biedermeier house until his death on 19 November 1828. This is where he wrote his last compositions.

"I have been put into this world for nothing except composing."

Franz Schubert
“If, dear Ries, you could think of a better place to live, it would suit me very well. … I would very much like something on a spacious, quiet square, or on the Bastei.”

Johann Strauss, photograph by Julius Domergue, 1884

Lithograph and study of Johann Strauss

Beethoven’s house, Heiligenstadt. View of courtyard

Letter from Ludwig van Beethoven to his friend Ferdinand Ries, 1804

The only apartment of Mozart still preserved in Vienna is on Domgasse 5. The composer moved into the house’s prestigious bel étage with his family on 29 September 1784 and lived there until April 1787. These two and a half years were among the most successful in his life: Here Mozart composed numerous chamber music pieces, eight piano concertos and, first and foremost, the opera “Le Nozze di Figaro.”

The Mozart apartment opens up a fascinating trail for the visitor to follow, clues of his life in stories, background information and extraordinary exhibits from his time. Everything revolves around the question: how did the Mozarts live during this period?

“Gaming room? Mozart was inordinately fond of gambling and games. The largest room overlooking Domgasse was probably used as a gaming room—with a billiards table and perhaps a special table for card games, chess or draughts.”

Letter, 1789. The main clock was made around 1790 and plays a variation of Mozart’s “Andante for a waltz in a small organ” (KV 616). These bars are the only ones from a Mozart composition so far preserved on a historical drum.

Flute clock, c. 1796. The flute clock was made around 1796 and plays a variation of Mozart’s “Andante for a waltz in a small organ” (KV 616). These bars are the only ones from a Mozart composition so far preserved on a historical drum.

“My wish and my hope is – to achieve honour and fame and make money …”

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Gaming room? Mozart was inordinately fond of gambling and games. The largest room overlooking Domgasse was probably used as a gaming room—with a billiards table and perhaps a special table for card games, chess or draughts.

The “Pasqualatihaus”, named after its owner Joseph Benedikt Baron von Pasqualati, stands on the Molker Bastei, a remnant of the old city fortifications. Ludwig van Beethoven lived and worked in Vienna for 35 years, eight of them here on the fourth floor. Among the pieces he worked on in this house were his 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th symphonies, and most of all his opera “Fidelio.” Many documents are on show illustrating the life and work of Beethoven, and in the Eroica house recall the rural setting of the Viennese suburb and the works the composer created in this year.

The exhibits document the background of this personal testament, the compositions of summer 1802, and Heiligenstadt itself, at the time a spa and recreational resort.

The “Heiligenstadt Testament” of 1802—the letter he never sent to his two brothers, in which he expressed his despair over his progressive deafness.

The exhibits in the Viennese suburb of Heiligenstadt is dedicated to one of the most devastating events in Ludwig van Beethoven’s life: its a remembrance of the “Heiligenstadt Testament” of 1802—the letter he never sent to his two brothers, in which he expressed his despair over his progressive deafness. The exhibits document the background of this personal testament, the compositions of summer 1802, and Heiligenstadt itself, at the time a spa and recreational resort.

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