What was life like in the Mozart household? Why did Beethoven go to Heiligenstadt? In what kind of environment did Schubert grow up?

In the musicians’ apartments belonging to the Wien Museum, you can get really close to the great composers. Their personal possessions, the whole atmosphere of the place, and numerous examples of their music invite you to immerse yourself in the world of the great names of music history.

At the same time, you take a journey through time into historic Vienna – from the Age of Enlightenment to the period when the Ringstrasse was built.
Ludwig van Beethoven spent the summer of 1803 living in the Viennese suburb of Oberdöbling, which at that time was surrounded by fields, gardens and vineyards. Like many well-off Viennese, he liked to spend the summer outside the city. This is where, between May and November 1803, he wrote most of his 3rd Symphony, the “Eroica”. The work established Beethoven’s reputation as a revolutionary in music.

With some interruptions, Ludwig van Beethoven spent a total of eight years living in the house of Johann Baptist Freiherr von Pasqualati, his patron and close friend. The first major work that the composer wrote here was the opera “Lodoisch” (renamed “Fidelio” against Beethoven’s will). The 5th and 6th Symphonies, which Beethoven had been working on during his summer visits to Baden and Heiligenstadt, were also finished at the Pasqualati House.

Joseph Haydn spent the last twelve years of his life in Gumpendorf, which at that time was the outermost suburb of Vienna. He bought his house between his trips to England, added an extra level and moved there in 1797 at the age of 65. At the high point of his career, he composed the oratorios “The Creation” and “The Seasons” here, among other works. Numerous prominent visitors from Austria and elsewhere visited Haydn in this house.

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Johann Strauss the Younger lived in the fashionable and elegant Praterstrasse from the mid-1860s to the mid-1870s. Then at the peak of his career, the world-famous composer went on tours through Europe and the USA. It was also at no. 54 that he wrote the “unofficial Austrian national anthem”, the Blue Danube waltz. The numerous valuable items in the apartment include a Bösendorfer grand piano and an Amati violin that were owned by the “Waltz King”.

Franz Schubert was born in 1797 by the open fire in the kitchen of a small apartment in the then suburb of Lichtental. He spent the first four-and-a-half years of his life in this house in the Naundorfer Straße. The focus is on Schubert’s education, his musical development, his family and his friends, with a highlight of the exhibition being the composer’s famous spectacles. Schubert’s Birthplace also houses two memorial rooms containing landscapes from the Biedermeier period painted by the writer and contemporary of Schubert, Adalbert Stifter.

Franz Schubert spent the last few months before his death in November 1828 living at the home of his brother Ferdinand in the Kettenbrückengasse. This is where his last musical drafts and the last letter written in his own hand can be seen, along with documents recording the touching reactions of his relatives when Schubert passed away.

Mozart’s only remaining home in Vienna forms part of the Mozarthaus Vienna and offers an entertaining treasure-hunt based on carefully selected objects. It consists of four large rooms, two small ones, and a kitchen and was the most expensive and luxurious dwelling Mozart ever had. He lived here from the end of September 1784 until the end of April 1787. During these two-and-a-half years, he wrote important works such as “The Marriage of Figaro”.

The new Beethoven Museum provides a comprehensive account of the life and work of the great composer. As has been known for generations, the building is associated with a moving testimonial by Beethoven. It was here, in 1802, that he wrote the “Heiligenstadt Testament”, the letter addressed, but never sent, to his brothers in which he expressed his despair about his increasing deafness. At the same time, he was also working on some of his most important compositions, including the “Tempest” sonata and initial sketches for his 3rd Symphony (“Eroica”).