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Leopold Mozart (1719–1787), Attributed to Franz Joseph Haydn (1737–1806)

There are a handful of musical compositions for which historians are unable to identify a specific composer. Although the Toy Symphony has often been attributed to Franz Joseph Haydn, Ludwig Mozart, father of the more famous Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, has also been credited with composing this piece.

Almost every great composer had a mom or dad who helped introduce them to music. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was famous as a child prodigy and was taken all over Europe by his father, Leopold, to perform for kings and dignitaries. Leopold also helped his young son learn by composing many songs for him. One song was written for young Wolfgang Amadeus that used regular orchestral instruments in addition to the sounds of several popular toys of the day (remember this was written in the 1700s so the toy sounds are quite different than what would be heard today).

SUGGESTED AGE:

K-3rd Grade

MATERIALS:

- ☑ Recording of *Toy Symphony* (Allegro, 1st movement) Enough instruments for the class (toy versions of the included instruments are suggested and may be purchased at a minimal cost at most party supply stores.
- ☑ Instrument templates (Appendix H)

SETUP/ACTIVITY:

Have students listen to the first few minutes of the *Toy Symphony* to try to determine what sounds are heard other than typical orchestral instruments:

ANSWER: Ratchets are heard first

Next are the sounds of Cuckoo whistles

Third come the bird calls

Have students discuss the way the *Toy Symphony* would sound if the piece were rewritten using toys from today (video games, bicycle horns, toy phones....).



Appendix C

