

# Chopin

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**Frédéric François Chopin** (born Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin; 1 March 1810 – 17 October 1849) was a Polish composer and virtuoso pianist of the Romantic period who wrote primarily for solo piano. He has maintained worldwide renown as a leading composer of his era whose "poetic genius was based on a professional technique that was without equal in his generation".

Chopin was born in Żelazowa Wola and grew up in Warsaw, which in 1815 became part of Congress Poland. A child prodigy, he completed his musical education and composed his early works in Warsaw before leaving Poland at age 20, less than a month before the outbreak of the November 1830 Uprising; at 21, he settled in Paris. Thereafter he gave only 30 public performances, preferring the more intimate atmosphere of the salon. He supported himself, selling his compositions and giving piano lessons, for which he was in high demand.

Chopin formed a friendship with Franz Liszt and was admired by many musical contemporaries, including Robert Schumann. After a failed engagement to Maria Wodzińska from 1836 to 1837, he maintained an often troubled relationship with the French writer Aurore Dupin (known by her pen name George Sand). A brief and unhappy visit to Mallorca with Sand in 1838–39 proved one of his most productive periods of composition.

All of Chopin's compositions feature the piano. Most are for solo piano, though he also wrote two piano concertos before leaving Warsaw, some chamber music, and 19 songs set to Polish lyrics. His piano pieces are technically demanding and expanded the limits of the instrument.

## Frédéric Chopin



### Born

Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin  
1 March 1810  
Żelazowa Wola, Duchy of Warsaw

### Died

17 October 1849 (aged 39)  
Paris, France

Composer | Pianist

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## Musical Style and Works

When he left Warsaw on 2 November 1830, Chopin had intended to go to Italy, but violent unrest there made that a dangerous destination. His next choice was Paris; difficulties obtaining a visa from Russian authorities resulted in him obtaining transit permission from the French. In later years he would quote the passport's endorsement "Passeport en passant par Paris à Londres" ("In transit to London via Paris"), joking that he was in the city "only in passing". Chopin arrived in Paris on 5 October 1831; he would never return to Poland, thus becoming one of many expatriates of the Polish Great Emigration. In France, he used the French versions of his given names, and after receiving French citizenship in 1835, he travelled on a French passport.



Chopin remained close to his fellow Poles in exile as friends and confidants. He never felt fully comfortable speaking French or considered himself to be French, despite his father's French origins. He always saw himself as a Pole, Adam Zamoyski wrote.

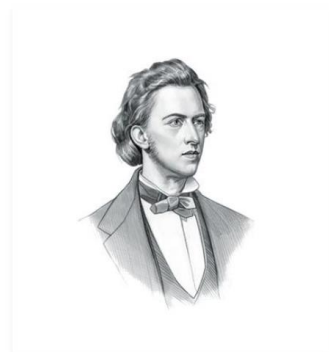
In Paris, Chopin encountered artists and other distinguished figures and found many opportunities to exercise his talents and achieve celebrity. During his years in Paris, he was to become acquainted with, among many others, Hector Berlioz, Franz Liszt, Ferdinand Hiller, Heinrich Heine, Eugène Delacroix, Alfred de Vigny, and Friedrich Kalkbrenner, who introduced him to the piano manufacturer Camille Pleyel. This was the beginning of a long and close association between the composer and Pleyel's instruments. Chopin was also acquainted with the poet Adam Mickiewicz, principal of the Polish Literary Society, some of whose verses he set as songs. He also was more than once guest of Marquis Astolphe de Custine, one of his fervent admirers, playing his works in Custine's salon.

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## Chronology

Key events, travels, and achievements of Frédéric Chopin

Year	Event
1810	Born on <b>1 March</b> in <i>Żelazowa Wola, Poland</i> , near Warsaw.
1817	Composed his first piece, a <i>Polonaise in G minor</i> , at age 7.
1826–1829	Studied at the <i>Warsaw Conservatory</i> under Józef Elsner, developing his distinctive Romantic style.
1829	Gave his first major public concert in <b>Vienna</b> , receiving enthusiastic reviews.
1830	Left Poland just before the <i>November Uprising</i> , eventually settling in Paris.
1831	Arrived in <b>Paris</b> and soon gained recognition among the leading musicians and aristocrats.
1835	Received <b>French citizenship</b> . Continued composing major works, including the <i>Nocturnes</i> and <i>Ballades</i> .
1837	Began his relationship with the novelist <b>George Sand</b> .
1838–1839	Stayed in <i>Mallorca</i> with Sand, where he wrote many of his <i>Preludes</i> (Op. 28).
1846	Health declined; wrote some of his most introspective late works, including the <i>Cello Sonata</i> .
1848	Toured <i>England and Scotland</i> , performing his last concerts due to his



Portrait of Frédéric Chopin, 1835



Chopin Museum in Warsaw



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## Photo Events



Portrait of Frédéric Chopin (1835)



Birthplace of Chopin in Żelazowa Wola



Chopin's Early Concert in Warsaw



Chopin and George Sand (1840s)



Chopin Museum in Warsaw



Chopin's stay in Mallorca, 1838–1839



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Chopin

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This website is dedicated to the life, works, and legacy of **Frédéric Chopin** — one of the greatest composers and

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ABOUT THIS SITE

This website is dedicated to the life, works, and legacy of **Frédéric Chopin** — one of the greatest composers and pianists of the Romantic era.

Explore his music, history, and influence through curated content and galleries.

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