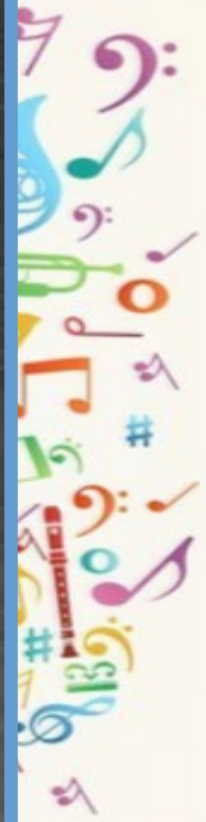




# Frederic Chopin

Composer of the Week





Born in Warsaw, Poland, in March  
1810



Died in Paris, France, in October  
1849

One of the most famous composers of the **Romantic** era.  
Nearly all his works are for piano, and many of them are very difficult.

He was also a piano teacher to many rich people and he wrote many of his pieces as a way to teach his students.

He was a child prodigy and composed lots of his early works in Warsaw, before leaving for Paris when he was 20.

Can you remember who else was a child prodigy?

**Mozart**

He was a **Nationalistic** composer – he used the folk music of Poland as a basis for some of his music – and this influenced many other **Romantic** composers.

Chopin composed a series of **Preludes** for the piano, one in every key.

Can you remember who else did this?

Johann Sebastian  
Bach

Chopin composed **Mazurkas** and **Polonaises** based on Polish Folk Music.

**Mazurkas** are dances.  
Can you tell how many beats are counted in each bar?

Do you know another dance where the beats are counted in 3?

**The Waltz**



The **Polonaise** was also a famous traditional Polish dance.  
This one is very famous and very difficult to play.





One important feature of **Romanticism** was that composers were very interested in nature, and wrote pieces that reflected the world around them.

This piece is called **The Raindrop Prelude**.

You can hear the raindrop from the very beginning right through to the end of the piece.




Chopin died in Paris in 1849. So many people wanted to attend his funeral that they issued tickets. Even so, over 3,000 people arrived without invitations from as far away as London, Berlin and Vienna.

Mozart's **Requiem** was sung at the funeral.



This is a **Funeral March** that Chopin himself wrote.

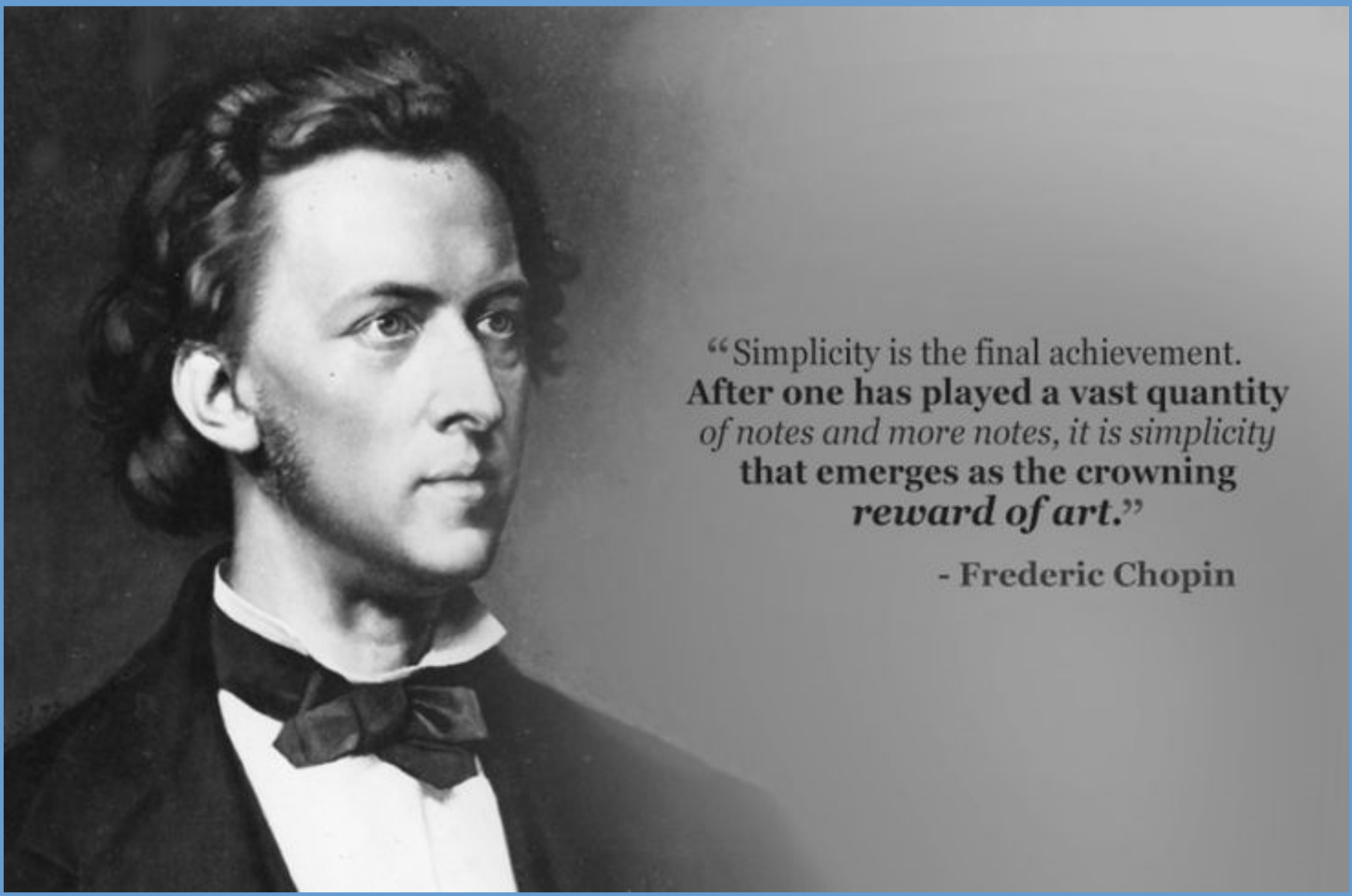




One of Chopin's most famous works is called **The Minute Waltz**. It's supposed to take one minute to play, although I'm not sure that ever happens.

Would you like to check?





“Simplicity is the final achievement.  
**After one has played a vast quantity**  
*of notes and more notes, it is simplicity*  
**that emerges as the crowning**  
*reward of art.”*

- Frederic Chopin