

REGION BAS RHIN



MOZART'S STAY

On September 26 1778, Mozart left Paris and took the postal diligence to Strasbourg which led him to the Alsatian capital where he arrived on October 10 1778 at the post house of the Cour du Corbeau. He discovered a garrison town with a heterogeneous aspect and in which half-timbered houses were next to luxurious buildings in the 18th-century French style. The cultural atmosphere was intense. The Strasbourg University had a European influence that attracted students like Goethe or Metternich.

The city excelled in arts, especially in vermeil silversmith's trade, in stained-glass windows, Hannong china and crockery, the building of organs (with the Silbermann dynasty), furniture and panelling in rococo style, etc...

An intellectual and cultural melting-pot, Strasbourg was the symbol of Europe of Enlightenment.

On October 17, Mozart gave a piano recital at the Poêle du Miroir, in the room now called "Salle Mozart" or at the Mauresse. Prince Max de Deux-Ponts attended the concert.

On October 24 and 31, Mozart gave a big concert with orchestra at the Comédie française which was burnt down in 1800. During his stay, Mozart also played in public on the Silbermann organs of the Temple Neuf church that was destroyed by a fire 1870 (rebuilt in 1874) and in Saint-Thomas, the church where the Marshal of Saxe rests. His tomb made by Pigalle, was unveiled in 1777.

On Novembre 3, Mozart left Strasbourg and went to Mannheim.

He brought with him a popular Alsatian tune which became the theme of the 3rd movement of his 4th concerto for violin and orchestra.

A FEW OF THE ALSATIAN PERSONALITIES MET BY MOZART

Prince Max de Deux-Ponts (1756-1825) a colonel of the Royal Alsace, lord of Ribeaupierre, future king of Bavaria (1806)

Johann Andreas Silbermann (1712-1783), an organ builder and his brother, Jean-Henri (1727-1789), specialised in the building of piano-forte

Franz Xaver Richter (1709-1789), choirmaster of the cathedral, a follower of the Mannheim school. Mozart dreamed for a short time of replacing Richter, but Ignaz Pleyel inherited the job

Sixtus Hepp (1732-1806) a student of the composer Jommeli, an organist of the Temple Neuf.

Johann Baptist Wendling (1723-1797), a composer and famous flute virtuoso born in Ribeauvillé. Mozart created the role of Ilia in Idoménée for his wife Dorothea, an opera singer as well as ariettas for his daughter Elizabeth Augusta.

Franz Anton Wendling (1729-1786) a violinist, brother of the former; Mozart created the role of Electre in *Idoménée* for his wife, Elizabeth Augusta

Franz Heinrich Ziegenhagen (1732-1806), a Strasbourgeois freemason. Mozart wrote the music to his poem *A little German cantata* K.619.

Philipp Jacob Franck (1715-1780), a merchant and banker, a freemason and one of the wealthiest and most influential personalities in the city.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Cour du Corbeau

Quai d'III; Relay station of the post

La Cathédrale

Mozart heard a new Mass by F. X. Richter here. The Cathedral has a magnificent fifteen-century Krebs Organ, modified in the beginning of the eighteenth century by Andreas Silbermann.

Mozart Room (Saale du Miroir)

3, rue du Miroir

Mozart's first concert in Strasbourg probably took place here.

New Temple

Mozart played here the Silbermann Organ. Church and organ had been destroyed by fire in August 1870.

St. Thomas Church

Mozart played here in public on one of the two best organs built by Silbermann. The other one you will find in the New Church.

ABOUT BAS RHIN

Bas-Rhin is a French département, named after the Rhine River.

The département was created during the French Revolution. In the mid-1790s, following the French occupation of the entire left bank of the Rhine, the département's northern boundary was extended north beyond the Lauter to the Queich river to include the areas of Annweiler am Trifels, Landau an der Pfalz, Bad Bergzabern, and Wörth an der Rhein. However, upon Napoleon's second defeat in 1815, the Congress of Vienna reassigned the areas north of the Lauter to Bavaria; and those territories are now presently located in the neighboring German state of Rhineland-Palatinate.

The département has twice been incorporated into Germany: from 1871 (after France's defeat in the Franco-Prussian War) until the end of World War I in 1918, and again briefly during World War II (from 1940 to 1945).

PARTNER ACTIVITIES

Detailed information you find on the local websites of our partners or

<http://www.mozartways.com>

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