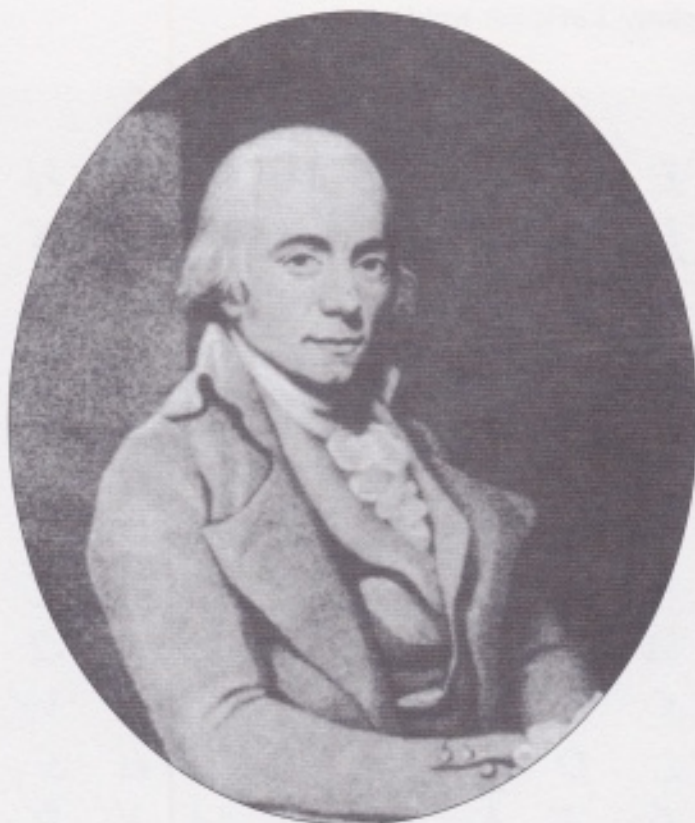


# Muzio Clementi



## *Important Facts to Know About Muzio Clementi*

**Born:** 1752 in Italy

**Died:** 1832

**Period of Music:** Classical

**Instrument(s) He Played:** Piano, organ

**Major Compositions:**

Piano: *Gradus ad Parnassum*, Op. 44; *Sonatinas*, Op. 36

Orchestra: *Symphonies No. 1-4*

Vocal: *Il martirio de' gloriosi* (oratorio) *Santi Girolamo e Celso* (oratorio)

**Interesting Facts:** Clementi was a composer, virtuoso pianist, conductor, teacher, music publisher and a manufacturer of pianos. He is called the father of modern piano writing and piano playing. Clementi took part in a piano competition with Mozart.

**Suggested Listening:** *Spiritoso* (from *Sonatina in C Major*, Op. 36, No. 3)

Clementi portrait by Thomas Hardy

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## Muzio Clementi

1752-1832



In 1752 Muzio Clementi was born in Rome, Italy. He had musical training as a boy, and his musical talents were so remarkable that when he was nine years old he was appointed organist at his church. At the age of 12, he composed his first oratorio.

His playing caught the attention of an English traveler, Peter Beckford, nephew of the Lord Mayor of London. Beckford persuaded Clementi's father that Muzio should study in England. They arrived in England, and Clementi spent seven years at Beckford's country estate outside of London studying and practicing the harpsichord.

In 1770 Clementi made a sensational London debut as pianist and composer and was hailed as a brilliant performer. Clementi lived mainly in London, although he spent several years touring the European continent as a concert pianist. In Vienna in December 1781, Clementi took part in a famous piano competition against Mozart. The contest was arranged by Emperor Joseph II, the brother of Marie Antoinette. Both musicians had to perform selections of their own compositions, and improvise and sight-read sonatas of Paisiello. Even though Mozart was not very complimentary about Clementi's playing, Clementi was very impressed with Mozart and said that he had never heard someone play with such spirit and grace. This was before Clementi had developed a mastery of the legato and singing style that later made him famous.

It is difficult to overestimate the influence that Clementi has had in the area of studies and compositions for teaching piano. His collection of 100 studies, *Gradus and Parnassum*, remains a foundation of piano technique today. He composed over 100 piano sonatas and many sonatinas that have become a part of almost every student's repertoire. His *Introduction to the Art of Playing on the Piano Forte*, Op. 40, was used by Ludwig van Beethoven. Beethoven held Clementi in very high esteem and endorsed and recommended his method.

Clementi was an influential teacher. Among his students were John Field and Johann Cramer. He also established a firm to publish music and manufacture pianos. He was a prosperous businessman who toured countries to promote his fine pianos, and he even successfully negotiated with Beethoven to be the publisher of Beethoven's music.

In later years, Clementi was called the "Father of Modern Piano Writing" and the "Father of the Pianoforte." His studies and performance did much to help in the transition from the harpsichord to the piano. When he died at 80 years of age, he was honored by a funeral and burial at Westminster Abbey in London.

# Clementi Word Search

Look down, across and diagonally to find words that will complete the sentences below. Circle the words.

E	L	I	C	G	S	M	W	B	H	N	I
A	E	J	O	T	A	Y	D	E	X	R	S
O	N	E	K	U	C	F	G	E	E	L	F
O	G	V	M	O	Z	A	R	T	K	P	M
F	L	L	A	B	H	T	S	H	I	S	W
D	A	M	E	J	Q	N	L	O	N	D	A
I	N	P	V	Z	I	F	Z	V	A	U	O
R	D	R	O	M	E	M	R	E	Z	G	U
B	G	W	T	O	K	Y	C	N	O	X	D
K	Q	S	N	I	P	B	F	H	W	K	C
F	E	L	D	G	R	A	D	U	S	V	R
W	S	G	T	E	J	R	M	X	P	J	Z

- In 1752, Muzio Clementi was born in \_\_\_\_\_, Italy.
- When Clementi was a young man, Peter Beckford took him to study in \_\_\_\_\_.
- In Vienna in 1781, Clementi was in a contest with Wolfgang Amadeus \_\_\_\_\_.
- His *Introduction to the Art of Playing on the Piano Forte* was used and recommended by Ludwig van \_\_\_\_\_.
- His collection of 100 studies, \_\_\_\_\_ *ad Parnassum* remains a foundation of piano technic.
- He was honored by being buried in \_\_\_\_\_ Abbey.

