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Features

Mozart a plagiarist?

Here's something that will shock all you lovers of classical music.

Two musicologists researching in an archives in Naples, Italy have discovered that Mozart plagiarised the music of an Italian contemporary for the last section of his great Requiem Mass at a time when he was dying, deep in debt and short of ideas.

It is believed that the two researchers had discovered the manuscript of a symphony by the 18th century composer Pasquale Anfossi, and immediately noted "an uncanny resemblance" to motifs in the Mozart Mass.

One of the scholars **Enzo Amato** said: "Mozart was familiar with Anfossi's music. He heard it in Italy, in Munich, in Paris and Vienna."

Mozart called Anfossi "that well-known Neapolitan."

The other researcher Alberto Vitolo said that Anfossi who wrote more than 70 operas was much better known than Mozart in his lifetime.

He said: "It may be that Mozart also drew on other melodies by him. There were similarities to Anfossi's work Don Giovanni, The Magic Flute and The Marriage of Figaro."