

ORPHEUS

Greek name Ὀρφεύς

Latin name Orpheus

Name in your language

Parents Apollo and Calliope

Role musician and poet

Home Earth

Attributes lyre

Pets wild animals

There was once a wonderfully gifted musician, Orpheus, son of the god Apollo and the Muse Calliope. He was indeed the best musician in the world. Some poets wrote how his music's sound affected nature: trees, rocks, fishes and beasts would forget their wild nature and listen to him, mesmerized. His music was so powerful that it was able to divert the course of rivers. As it happens, despite his unparalleled talent, Orpheus was an ill-fated lover. His cherished wife Eurydice died from a snake's bite in the woods. Torn by sorrow, Orpheus descended into the Underworld and asked his uncle Hades to allow him to take Eurydice back. Hades (a tender heart, indeed) consented on one condition. On their trip to the world of the living, Orpheus was forbidden to look back at Eurydice. Can you guess the end of the story? When they had almost arrived at the surface of the Earth, Orpheus could not resist his urge to look at his beloved. Eurydice's soul fled back to Hades forever. Finally, after Orpheus' death, they met in the Elysian Fields – the resting place in the Underground, where the blessed souls dwelled.

