

Ludwig van Beethoven


1770 – 1827

(LOOD-vihg fahn BAY-toe-fen)



- Born in Bonn, Germany
- Father was his first piano teacher
- Started earning money as an organist to support his family at 14
- Moved to Vienna at age 22, and people loved hearing him play piano in concerts and hearing his compositions
- He was one of the first composers to make a career out of music without being employed by nobility or a church.
- Started to have problems with his hearing when he was in his mid-20s. By his early 30s he was painfully aware of his hearing loss. By his mid-40s he was completely deaf
- Tried many "hearing aids" that looked like horns that go in your ear
- Continued to compose even after he went deaf
- In total, he composed 9 symphonies, 5 concertos for piano, 32 piano sonatas, 16 string quartets, and several other pieces of chamber and choral music.



 Listen to Beethoven Symphony No. 5, Movement 1.
We think you'll recognize it!