

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
- 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's Symphony No. 5, Movement 1

* Search for this title on a music streaming platform (YouTube, Spotify, etc.) to find a recording