

Biography of the Composer Ludwig van Beethoven

- 1770: christened in Bonn on 17 December; probably born on 18 December. Little Ludwig showed enormous early musical talent and had his first lessons with his father, later studying with various musicians in Bonn.
- 1778: At a concert in Cologne Beethoven's father presented him as a musical prodigy, rather like Mozart.
- 1780: took lessons with the Bonn court organist Christian Gottlob Neefe.
- 1783: employed as accompanist (on the harpsichord) for the court orchestra.
- 1784: appointed assistant court organist (Prince Maximilian's private chapel).
- 1787: granted leave of absence by the Prince-Bishop to study with Joseph Haydn and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in Vienna. The sudden death of Beethoven's mother meant he had to return to Bonn to look after his two younger sisters, though, as their father was an alcoholic.
- 1792: Beethoven moved to Vienna. He studied with Haydn in 1792 and worked as a piano teacher until 1795. He was highly regarded and was a member of the Viennese establishment who provided him with financial support.
- 1795: first public concert in Bonn. Beethoven's deafness at the *Burgtheater* in Vienna. He realised that his deafness was becoming progressively worse with age.
- 1802: The 'Heiligenstadt' letter reflects the extent of his suffering, after which he could no longer communicate verbally in 'conversation books'.
- 1807: Beethoven died in Vienna on 26 March. His funeral was attended by a large number of musicians and onlookers. Franz Schubert was buried in the same churchyard.

History of the work: Symphony No. 5 in C minor op. 67

Four movements (*Allegro con brio* – *Andante con moto* – *Allegro* – *Allegro*)

Structure: 1st movement: Sonata form – exposition (introduction of themes), development (variation of themes) and reprise
2nd movement: theme with variations
3rd movement: scherzo, cast in 3/4 time instead of the more usual 3/8
4th movement: first in the form of a joyous finale, but with a darkly dramatic middle section.

Dedicated to Prince Franz Joseph and Count Andrey Kirillovich Razumov

Beethoven worked on the symphony for a long time, beginning as early as 1803 and finishing it in 1808. This was because he was working on several projects at the same time.

First performed in December 1808, conducted by Beethoven in a programme which also included Pastoral Symphony No. 6 in F major op. 68, Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major op. 58, parts of the Mass in C major op. 86 and the Piano Concerto in C minor op. 15 for piano, choir and orchestra.

Instrumentation: 2 flutes, piccolo, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 1 cor Anglais, 2 horns, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones, timpani, strings

PREVIEW

Low Resolution

1st Movement

Ludwig van Beethoven
1770–1827

Allegro con brio ♩ = 96

37

Musical score for measures 37-41. The piece is in B-flat major (two flats) and 3/4 time. Measure 37 features a long melodic line in the right hand and a rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand. Measures 38-41 continue the melodic development with various fingerings (5, 4, 1, 4, 3, 2) and dynamics including *sfz*.

38

Musical score for measures 38-42. Measures 38-40 show a melodic line with triplets and slurs, accompanied by chords in the left hand. Measure 41 has a *sf* dynamic. Measure 42 features a melodic line with slurs and a *sf* dynamic.

43

Musical score for measures 43-46. Measures 43-44 have a *sf* dynamic. Measures 45-46 show a melodic line with slurs and a *f* dynamic. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment.

49

Musical score for measures 49-52. Measures 49-50 have a *ff* dynamic. Measures 51-52 show a melodic line with slurs and a *ff* dynamic. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment.

Musical score for measures 53-56. Measures 53-54 show a melodic line with slurs and a *ff* dynamic. Measures 55-56 show a melodic line with slurs and a *ff* dynamic. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment.