

# The Works of Ludwig van Beethoven

Michael Souza

Series Editor Anne Taylor

Seed  
Learning



# Contents

|                                                                       |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Who was Ludwig van Beethoven?.....                                    | 4  |
| <i>Piano Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp Minor, Op. 27, No. 2 (1801)</i> ... | 13 |
| <i>Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 67 (1808)</i> .....                 | 16 |
| <i>Bagatelle No. 25 in A Minor (1810)</i> .....                       | 20 |
| Reading Quiz.....                                                     | 23 |
| New Words .....                                                       | 24 |
| Music Timeline.....                                                   | 26 |
| Notes .....                                                           | 30 |



Text Audio

## Who was Ludwig van Beethoven?

Ludwig van Beethoven is often considered the greatest composer who ever lived. He is all the more impressive for his ability to keep composing, even as his hearing failed him.



↑ A portrait of Beethoven composing music



Beethoven's music is known all over the world.



Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany in 1770. As a child, he showed musical talent. He was taught by his father, who gave his son little love. Beethoven certainly did not have an easy childhood. His family lost most of



and the poor health of his father made matters worse. When he was eleven, Beethoven was forced to leave school to find a job.

← Bonn is home to over 300,000 Germans.



Bonn was the capital of West Germany from 1949 to 1990.



Neefe and Beethoven  
both worked as organists.

Around 1780, Beethoven was lucky enough to study the piano with Christian Gottlob Neefe, who taught him how to compose music. In time, Neefe gave him work as a court organist. He encouraged his young student and helped him get his first work published at the age of thirteen!

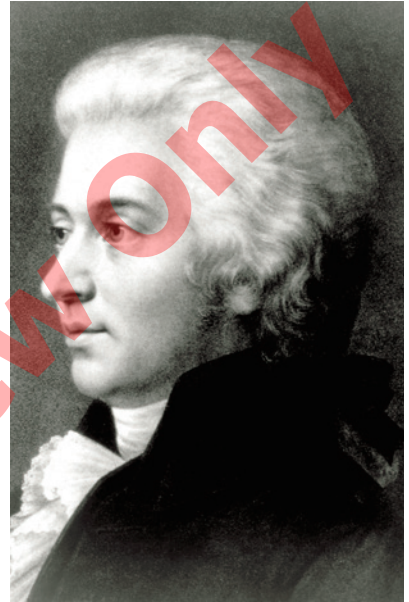


↑ Christian Gottlob Neefe (1748-1798) was Beethoven's main piano teacher and helped him produce his early works.



Beethoven made such great progress in his musical skills that he was sent to Vienna, where he hoped to study with Mozart. But his mother got sick, so he had to return to Bonn after just a few weeks. Back in Bonn, he continued his work as an organist and taught music.

Mozart (1756-1791) influenced other composers like Beethoven.



Vienna, the "City of Music," is in Austria.





Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) is known as the "Father of the String Quartet" and "Father of the Symphony."



Beethoven was good at both writing and playing music.

In 1792, Beethoven went to Vienna again, but this time he met the composer Joseph Haydn. Beethoven's goal was to perform music, but his talent as a composer was hard to hide.





The Imperial Court Theater is known as the "Burgtheater" in German.

In 1800, Beethoven presented his *Symphony No. 1 in C Major* at the Imperial Court Theater in Vienna. This was his first major work for an orchestra. One year later, he published his first string quartets. Beethoven was already starting to lose his hearing at this time.

A string quartet is a group of four musicians with two violins, a viola, and a cello.







A statue of  
Beethoven in Bonn

Beethoven continued to write music. In fact, as his hearing got worse, Beethoven spent less time with other people and more time alone composing. He continued to conduct, including the first performances of his third and fifth symphonies in 1804 and 1808.



Beethoven was known as a  
man who easily got angry.

It became harder  
and harder for  
Beethoven to hear.



Beethoven would have used a pen and paper like this to write notes.

By the age of forty-four, he could not hear at all and had to communicate with written notes to talk to people. Despite his hearing loss, many of his most important works were composed during the last ten years of his life.

Although Beethoven couldn't hear his music, he could feel it.

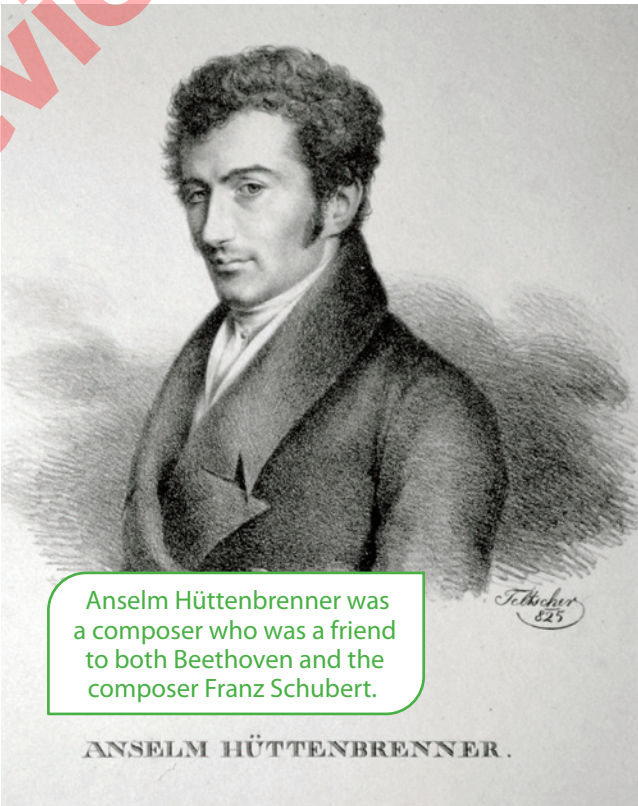




It is believed that Beethoven fell in love several times, but he never married. When he died at the age of fifty-six, the only people with him were his sister-in-law Johanna van Beethoven and his friend Anselm Hüttenbrenner.



Beethoven's grave  
in Vienna



Anselm Hüttenbrenner was  
a composer who was a friend  
to both Beethoven and the  
composer Franz Schubert.

ANSELM HÜTTENBRENNER.