




Composer Portfolios

BEETHOVEN



Name	Ludwig van Beethoven
Nationality	German
Baptised-Died	1770-1827
Quote	<p><i>'I wish you music to help with the burdens of life, and to help you release your happiness to others.'</i></p> <p><i>'What I have in my heart and soul-must find a way out. That's the reason for music.'</i></p>
	

Interesting Stories

Beethoven's Food Fight

One day, while dining out with a friend, the waiter brought Beethoven the wrong dish. Beethoven had highlighted the issue with the waiter who replied in a rather impolite manner. In response to this, Beethoven took hold of the dish and threw it at the waiters head. The waiter had his arms filled with other customers plates and could do nothing to help himself as the sauce ran down his face. He and Beethoven continued to shout and curse at each other, while all the other guests laughed hysterically. Beethoven soon started laughing at the spectacle of seeing the waiter crying to catch the sauce with his tongue as it ran down his face, while continuing to shout.

Crazy Beethoven

One evening an unshaven man in a tattered coat was spotted peeking into the windows of various homes. The police soon received a complaint and promptly arrived to arrest the snooping crazy man. The man in turn complained that he was in fact the great composer Beethoven. When the police understandably refused to listen, the suspect threw a tantrum and demanded to have the musical director Herzog summoned to identify him. Eventually, the Police Commissar was roused and informed of the unfolding situation; he reluctantly got out of bed, dressed, and woke Herzog, who accompanied him to the watchhouse. Herzog set his sleepy eyes upon the suspect and promptly admitted: "That is Beethoven!" When Beethoven was spotted in the street, he was usually lost in thought and humming to himself. Sometimes he would be seen wildly flinging his arms about.

The Bringer of Tears

Beethoven would frequently find himself bring people to tears with his music. It did not matter whose company he was in, not an eye remained dry, while many would break out into loud sobs. He had a very unique way of expressing himself musically, which overwhelmed his audiences. After ending improvisations he would burst out laughing and make fun of his listeners. He would cry 'You are fools...Who can live amongst such spoiled children!'

Facts:

- Beethoven was born in Bonn, although his birth date is uncertain
- Beethoven struggled at Math throughout his life
- Beethoven was a notorious daydreamer
- On his first visit to Vienna, 17-year-old Beethoven performed for Mozart
- Beethoven suffered from bad health throughout his life
- He had constant buzzing in his ears from age 27 which developed into deafness
- It has been said that Beethoven dipped his head in cold water before composing- nobody knows why.
- Early in his career, Beethoven earned his living playing a Viola in an orchestra- possibly one of the reasons he was said to compose for the piano 'as if it was a stringed instrument'.
- Beethoven died during a thunderstorm on the 29th March 1827 in Vienna.
- When he died, Beethoven's headstone had only a single word- 'Beethoven'. Such was his fame at the time, it was all that was needed.

Beethoven's Music

Now we know more about the man, why not listen to some of his music!

- Symphony No.3 in E Flat, Op.55- Eroica
- Symphony No.9- 'Ode to Joy'
- Piano Sonata No.30 in E, Op.109
- String Quartet No.14 in c sharp minor, Op.131
- Piano Concerto No.5 in E flat Major
- Symphony No.7 in A, Op.92
- Fidelio, Op.72
- Coriolan Overture, Op.62
- Violin Concerto in D, Op.61
- Violin Sonata No.9, Op.47- Kreutzer Sonata
- Symphony No.5
- Fur Elise
- Moonlight Sonata
- Sonata No.8 in C Major Op.13- Pathetique