

The Life of Beethoven

Primer Level



Arrow Music Center

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Chapter 1 Beethoven, The Little Boy

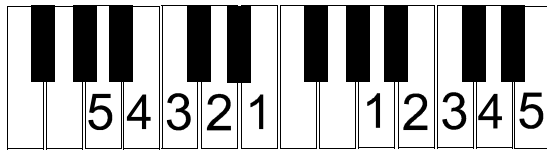


Around 250 years ago, a little boy was born in Bonn, Germany. His name was Ludwig van Beethoven. He began taking piano lessons at the age of four. Beethoven loved piano so much that he would play piano everyday until dinnertime. Sometimes he would even skip sleeping and practice all night long.

Everyone in town knew how talented Beethoven was. As people walked by his house, they can hear the beautiful music he was playing. When Beethoven was only ten, he started to work. The local church had hired him to play the organ. But there was a small problem. Because Beethoven was small, compare to the older musicians, he couldn't reach the pedals of the organ. So the church decided to make an organ just for him. It was just the right size for him. Now, his feet were able to reach with no problem.

People all over town heard the news of how talented Beethoven was, and started hiring him to play. He began composing right after he finished school. One of the most exciting things that happen to Beethoven was meeting Mozart. Imagine that! Mozart was very impressed by this little boy. He told him that he had a great future.

1. How old was Beethoven when he started taking music lessons? _____
2. What did Beethoven loved to do? He did this everyday until dinnertime. _____
3. Which composer did Beethoven meet, and told Beethoven had a great future? _____



L.H.

R.H.

Russian Folk Song

Ludwig van Beethoven

2 4 4 4 2 4 4 4

3 5 3 1 3 3 2 2

5 4 2 2 2 4 2 2 2

7 1 3 5 2 extend pinky! 5

Chapter 2

Beethoven, Not So Nice Teacher

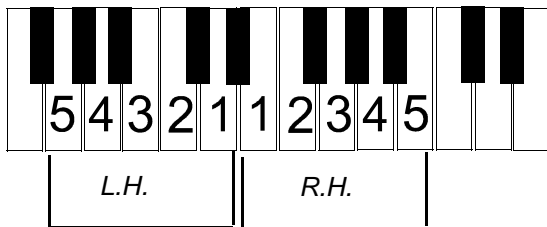


When Ludwig was older, he began teaching wealthy kids in the city of Vienna. The children were happy and proud to take lessons from him, but they didn't always enjoy it. Beethoven sometimes was so mean to his students that they would cry.

One bright Spring day, Beethoven went for a walk with his friend, Joseph Haydn. As they walked, Haydn asked Beethoven, "Why he was so mean to his students?" Beethoven knew his friend was right. Beethoven stopped and sighed. He said that his stomach always hurts. He didn't like being mean to his students but his stomach always made him grumpy.

His students didn't know he usually felt sick, and that was what made him mean. But when they heard his calm music that he wrote, they knew that their teacher, Beethoven, must be a nice person underneath his grumpiness.

1. Were Beethoven's students poor or rich? _____.
2. Was Beethoven a happy or mean teacher? _____.
 - a. Why was he a mean teacher? _____.
3. Which friend told Beethoven he was grumpy and mean? _____.



Turkish March

Ludwig van Beethoven

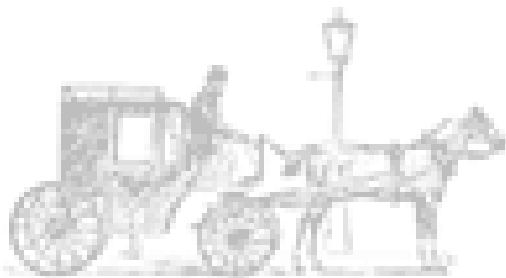
3

5

7

Chapter 3

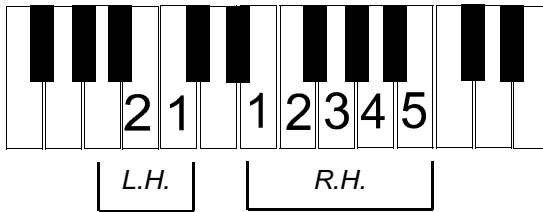
Beethoven, Loosing His Hearing



At the age of 27 Beethoven noticed that he was loosing his hearing. By the time he turned 33, he was completely deaf! He was very sad because of this. He kept asking himself, “How can a composer write, if he can’t hear?”

Beethoven and his brother took a carriage ride. It was a beautiful Autumn day. As they rode along, Beethoven saw a stream and a bird on a tree. This made him very sad indeed. He realized that he couldn’t hear anything anymore. How he missed the sound of the flowing stream and the sounds of the birds singing. Poor Beethoven, he was very sad and angry.

1. *How old was Beethoven when he completely lost his hearing?_____.*
2. *Did Beethoven think he could still compose?_____.*



Moonlight Sonata

Ludwig van Beethoven

3 5 3 5

The first system of the score, measures 1-4. The right hand (treble clef) plays a sequence of eighth notes: E4, G4, E4, G4, E4, G4. The left hand (bass clef) plays a sequence of dotted half notes: B3, B3, B3, B3. Fingerings are indicated as 2 for the first B3 and 2 for the second B3 in the left hand, and 3 and 5 for the eighth notes in the right hand.

3 5 3 5

The second system of the score, measures 5-8. The right hand continues the eighth-note sequence: E4, G4, E4, G4, E4, G4. The left hand continues the dotted half-note sequence: C4, C4, C4, C4. Fingerings are indicated as 1 for the first C4 and 1 for the second C4 in the left hand, and 3 and 5 for the eighth notes in the right hand.

5 Move 3rd finger to F. 5

The third system of the score, measures 9-12. The right hand plays eighth notes: F4, A4, F4, A4, F4, A4. The left hand continues the dotted half-note sequence: C4, C4, C4, C4. Fingerings are indicated as 1 for the first C4 and 1 for the second C4 in the left hand, and 3 and 5 for the eighth notes in the right hand. A note above measure 10 indicates to move the 3rd finger to F.

7

The fourth system of the score, measures 13-16. The right hand plays eighth notes: A4, D#5, A4, D#5, A4. The left hand continues the dotted half-note sequence: B3, B3, B3, B3. Fingerings are indicated as 2 for the first B3 and 2 for the second B3 in the left hand, and 2 and 5 for the eighth notes in the right hand. A double bar line is at the end of measure 16.

Chapter 4

Beethoven, The Composer



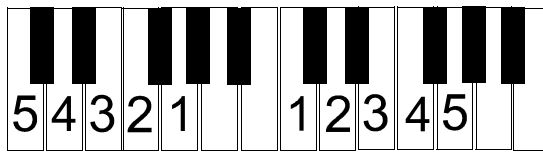
It is hard to believe that most of the music Beethoven wrote was after he was deaf. He had composed eight symphonies by the age 50 and was getting ready to write a new one. This was his ninth symphony and he wanted to be special.

Beethoven had a habit of walking through the woods. He loved to walk because it made him think of his music. So, you can imagine how much he walked! As he was walking, he thought about his new symphony and how he wanted his ninth symphony to symbolize the whole world in peace. As you can see, Beethoven was a person who really cared about his fellow man.

He worked endlessly day and night. He hired a carpenter to cut off the legs of his piano, so he could feel the vibrations as he played the song on the piano.

He was exhausted, but he finally finished his symphony. Now, Beethoven was ready to perform his piece. The theatre was filled with royalty and Beethoven was very nervous. But Beethoven and his assistant did a wonderful job. As he turned around to look at the audience, he was astonished to see everyone on their feet. And although, he couldn't hear the crowd's cheers and applause, he just knew he had done a great job.

1. Which symphony did Beethoven want to be special? _____.
2. What thing did Beethoven like to do that helped think of music? _____.
3. What did Beethoven want his Ninth Symphony to symbolize? _____.



L.H.

R.H.

Ode to Joy

Ludwig van Beethoven

3 4 5 5 4 3 2

2

1 2 3 3 2 2

4

3 3 2 1 1 2 3 4

6

5 5 4 3 4 5 5

8

2 2 3 1 2 3 4 3 1

10

2 3 4 3 2 1 2

12

3 3 4 5 5 4 3 2

14

1 1 2 3 2 1 1

Chapter 5

Beethoven, The Rebel



Beethoven was a very special man. Even though he was grumpy and mean at times, he was still loved and admired by people of all ages. Beethoven was deaf, but he still wrote beautiful music. He was very bright, but often forget to do basic stuff, like cleaning or even taking a bath.

As we look back when he was 28 years old, Beethoven thought that the music of all the other composers were the same. They all sounded sweet and follow the same rules. Beethoven had a lot of songs in his head that would not follow these rules that these composer followed. So Beethoven decided to be brave and broke the rules. He started to write what he wanted. And that made him very happy. These songs were very powerful that one day he broke the strings on the piano he was playing!

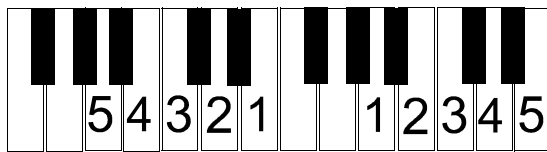
Beethoven broke the rules but by doing this, he brought emotion, and artistry to the songs he wrote.

1. Why was Beethoven considered a rebel? _____.

2. When Beethoven broke the rules, what did he bring to music?

3. How do you think Beethoven became an excellent piano player?

- A. He played video games everyday.
- B. He watched TV everyday.
- C. He PRACTICED everyday



L.H.

R.H.

Fur Elise

Ludwig van Beethoven

5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5

3

5

7