

Ludwig van Beethoven



was born in Bonn, Germany in 1770.

He didn't really look or act like a genius...he was often dishevelled, rude, aggressive and unpredictable.

But his music told another story.....



His father taught him to play the piano when he was very young.

He had to practise for many hours every day. He gave his first public concert when he was only 7 years old!



It was clear that he was very talented so he started to receive music tuition from a famous composer at the time - Haydn.

When Beethoven was 12, he published his first piece of music.



Even if you think you don't know anything about classical music, there's a good chance you'll recognise some of his music.

Listen to the first few seconds of this audio clip (Symphony No.5 - 1st movement):

<http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/tv/tenpieces/beethoven-short.mp3>

Tragically, at the age of 28, he started to go deaf so he could only imagine the sounds in his head!

He tried out lots of inventions to help him hear like a big, brass ear trumpet and contraption inside his piano which helped him feel the vibrations.



Last week, we looked at Vivaldi. His time period was called Baroque (1600-1750). Here are examples of Baroque instruments:



violins



lutes

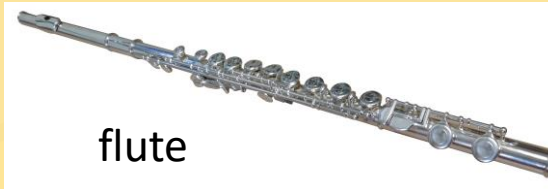


harpsichords

Beethoven wrote music in the **Classical** era (1750-1830). There were two main changes - the introduction of:



the piano



flute



oboe



clarinet

more woodwind,
creating a larger
orchestra

Watch the video below* and listen to Barney Harwood describe Beethoven's very famous piece of music, Symphony No.5

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02flvmx>

*the first 2 minutes explains the music, but the orchestra continue to play for the remainder of the clip.