Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)  
The most famous Western Composer  
whose powerful personality and genius are evident in his music  

Born 1770 in Bonn, Germany  
Abusive alcoholic father who tried to make Ludwig a new Mozart... unsuccessful  
Local church and court jobs  
At 21, moved to Vienna as a free-lance musician  
  Studied with Haydn, who he found too old fashioned, secretly studied with others.  
  Successful with the public - demanded respect as a 'artist' from the nobility.  
Early musical style similar to Haydn, Mozart, but less restrained (Early period)  
  finest pianist, dazzling improvisations, compositions performed and published,  
  (Piano Sonata No. 8, "Pathetique")  
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qeL8oZAkDB&feature=related  
  wrote 16 string quartets  
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vL-AIIdIrT8  
    Rondo ABACA(BA) (A=ritornello, B and C = episodes)  

replaced minuet (moderate triple meter) -  
  Mozart Symphony no 41, 3rd movement)  
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybQq3Qt-8J4  
    with a scherzo (fast triple meter) -  
  Symphony No. 1, 3rd movement:  
    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_ao76HGlKg  

1800 began to go deaf  
  Moonlight Sonata  
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=524VIYD0PVw  
    1802 Heiligenstadt Testament (last will implying suicide, "only art held me back")
1803 - **Middle period** – the birth of Romanticism - everything more (dynamics, size of orchestra, length, drama, daring harmony)

Music is about the ego, and emotion.

**Symphony No. 5**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jh-E5m01wY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jh-E5m01wY)

Program music - music that is about a something specific: a story or ideal

**Symphony No. 6, “Pastoral”**

IV. Thunderstorm  
V. Shepherd’s Song. Happy and thankful feelings after the storm.  
...noble, but not arrogant, just dignified - elevating common people (himself) to nobility

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aW-7CqxhnAQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aW-7CqxhnAQ)
Eccentric behavior, messy manuscripts, apartment (numerous), always in litigation
Due to increasing deafness, gradually withdrew from public performance
lots of love interests, never married (accuracy of Immortal Beloved)
took charge of nephew Karl, over-controlling, disastrous

1818 – 1827  Late period
total deafness - completely eccentric - nobility bowed to Beethoven on the street!
most sublime music, greatest works -
Symphony No. 9  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcR63fPtSLs