

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770–1827)

Symphony No. 7, IV. Allegro con brio

BIOGRAPHY: Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany and from an early age was a talented performer. To help support his family, he toured around Europe performing as a child prodigy. He began touring at age 13 which eventually led him to play for **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** at age 17. Mozart in response remarked “keep an eye on him—he will make noise in the world some day”. However, the pressure to perform as a child was stressful and caused some unhappiness in Beethoven’s childhood. As an adult, Beethoven composed at a quick pace, writing over **700 works**. Beethoven struggled emotionally as he aged due to his increasing hearing loss during the last ten years of his life. Beethoven had a rebellious nature and expected the aristocrats he knew to accept him as their equal, which was shocking for that time and culture. Beethoven’s music became popular at a time in history when the life of the middle class and freedom for all was an important political theme. Beethoven was one of the first composers to **write what he wanted** to rather than rely on someone telling him what to compose. This was a monumental shift in the arts movement, as artists became more independent and could create works that they felt were important.



▶ **LISTEN** to Symphony No. 7, IV. Allegro con brio

ABOUT THE MUSIC: Beethoven’s 7th symphony was written in 1814, when he was almost completely deaf. Beethoven was not able to hear the soft passages and when he conducted at its premiere, he ended several bars ahead of the orchestra. This movement of Symphony No. 7 reflects very original thinking and is recognized for its focus on **rhythmic patterns**. Interestingly, the symphony does not have as clear of a theme, or central melody, running through its entirety compared to some of Beethoven’s other symphonies (ex. *Pastoral* or *Eroica*). The finale movement also differs from Beethoven’s other symphonies because it jumps right into the **intense tempo, dynamic changes and rhythms**, rather than gradually building. This finale was the first time Beethoven used fortissimo (FFF) as a dynamic marking.

READ about Beethoven on [Classics for Kids](#)

WATCH ten short facts about Beethoven

Answers for Graphic Score worksheet: Instrument Groups; Music Notation (note values); Pitch

GRAPHIC SCORE FOLLOW-ALONG

A [score](#) is the printed copy of music for a work, which includes all the parts of each instrument for the conductor to use in directing the ensemble. A **graphic score** uses visuals, other than traditional music notation, to illustrate the music and parts of the ensemble. [SEE](#) score example. [LEARN](#) about graphic scores.

Graphic Score Follow-Along:

[WATCH](#) this video of a graphic score for Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, mvt. IV. Allegro con brio.

Graphic Score Dissection:

Use the definitions from Classics for Kids to help determine what each part of the graphic score represents.

From [Classics for Kids Music Dictionary](#): [See full dictionary here!](#)

- **INSTRUMENT:** "An object used to make music"
- **NOTATION:** "The symbols used to represent music when written down"
- **PITCH:** "How high or low a musical sound is"

Questions:

What do the different shapes represent?

**INSTRUMENT
GROUPS**

MUSIC NOTATION

PITCH

What do the length of the shapes represent?

**INSTRUMENT
GROUPS**

MUSIC NOTATION

PITCH

What do the different colors represent?

**INSTRUMENT
GROUPS**

MUSIC NOTATION

PITCH

MY HERO: Learn Online

RESEARCHING A COMPOSER HERO

- Visit <https://myhero.com/>, use the search bubble in the top right to search “Beethoven” on MYHERO and choose one of “Story” options that match the search for Beethoven.

1. Who was the author of the story you chose?: _____

2. In your own words, write two facts about Beethoven:

3. Write one [adjective](#) to describe what type of “hero” Beethoven was:

DISCOVERING A NEW HERO

- Go to the Hero Directory for music: <https://myhero.com/musician>. Find an artist who is unfamiliar to you. Learn about them and answer the questions below.

1. Name of the musical hero: _____

2. What are they known for?:

1. Who is the author of the article?: _____

2. What is one thing you admire about the hero?:

Share your work with us at education@cincinnati-symphony.org or #CSOEducatorNetwork