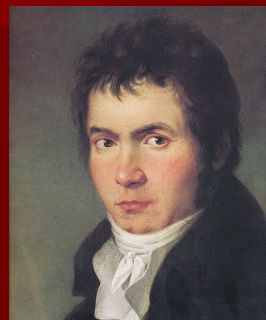


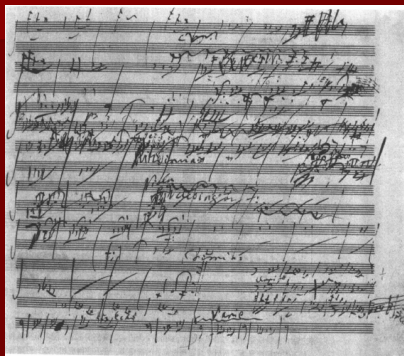
Beethoven Symphony 6: Pastoral

- Composed in 1808 (remember Immortal Beloved affair?)
- Program Music: **art music** that attempts to musically render an extra-musical **narrative**. The narrative itself might be offered to the audience in the form of **program notes**, inviting imaginative correlations with the music

Beethoven Symphony 6: Pastoral



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- Beethoven was a lover of nature who spent a great deal of his time on walks in the country. He frequently left Vienna to work in rural locales.
- "more the expression of feeling than painting"

Beethoven Symphony 6: Pastoral

- **I. Allegro ma non troppo: *Awakening of cheerful feelings upon arrival in the country***
- The symphony begins with a placid and cheerful movement depicting the composer's feelings as he arrives in the country. The work is in **sonata form**, and its motifs are extensively developed. At several points Beethoven builds up orchestral texture by multiple repetitions of very short motifs. Yvonne Frindle commented, "the infinite repetition of pattern in nature [is] conveyed through **rhythmic cells**, its immensity through sustained pure harmonies."

Beethoven Symphony 6: Pastoral

- **II. Andante molto mosso: *Scene at the brook***
- This movement, titled by Beethoven "By the brook," is held to be one of Beethoven's most beautiful and serene compositions. It is in a 12/8 meter and the key is B flat major, the **subdominant** of the main key of the work, and is in sonata form.
- At the opening the strings play a motif that clearly imitates flowing water. The cello section is divided, with just two players playing the flowing-water notes on muted instruments, with the remaining cellos playing mostly **pizzicato** notes together with the double basses.
- Toward the end of the movement, in the coda that begins at measure 124, there is a **cadenza** for three woodwind instruments that imitates bird calls at measure 130. Beethoven helpfully identified the bird species in the score: **nightingale** (flute), **quail** (oboe), and **cuckoo** (clarinet).

Beethoven Symphony 6: Pastoral

- **III. Allegro: *Happy gathering of country folk***
- This is a scherzo, which depicts country folk dancing and reveling. It is in F major, returning to the main key of the symphony.
- The form of the movement is an altered version of the usual form for scherzi, in that the trio appears twice rather than just once, and the third appearance of the scherzo theme is truncated. The final return of Scherzo conveys a riotous atmosphere with a faster tempo. The movement ends abruptly, leading without a pause into the fourth movement.

Beethoven Symphony 6: Pastoral

- **IV. Allegro: *Thunderstorm***
- The fourth movement, in F minor, depicts a violent thunderstorm with painstaking realism, building from just a few drops of rain to a great climax with thunder, lightning, high winds, and sheets of rain.
- The storm eventually passes, with an occasional peal of thunder still heard in the distance. There is a seamless transition into the final movement.

Beethoven Symphony 6: Pastoral

- **V. Allegretto: *Shepherds' song; cheerful and thankful feelings after the storm***
- The finale is in F major and is in 6/8 time. The movement is written in sonata rondo form, meaning that the main theme appears in the tonic key at the beginning of the development as well as the exposition and the recapitulation. Like many classical finales, this movement emphasizes a symmetrical eight-bar theme, in this case representing the shepherds' song of thanksgiving. The mood throughout is unmistakably joyful.
- The coda, which Antony Hopkins has called "arguably the finest music of the whole symphony," starts quietly and gradually builds to an ecstatic culmination for the full orchestra (minus "storm instruments"), with the first violins playing very rapid triplet tremolo at the top of their range. There follows a fervent passage suggestive of prayer, marked by Beethoven "pianissimo, sotto voce"; most conductors slow the tempo for this passage. After a brief period of afterglow, the work ends with two emphatic F major chords.

Beethoven 9th Symphony

- Final Symphony, completed in 1824
- Considered his best, perhaps greatest piece of music ever written
- First ever symphony to include voices (4th mvt):
- Text from "Ode to Joy" poem Friedrich Schiller

Original Manuscript



Friedrich Schiller

Premiere

- By this time, Beethoven completely deaf
- violinist Josef Böhm recalled: "Beethoven directed the piece himself; that is, he stood before the lectern and gesticulated furiously. At times he rose, at other times he shrank to the ground, he moved as if he wanted to play all the instruments himself and sing for the whole chorus. All the musicians minded his rhythm alone while playing".

Premiere

- When the audience Beethoven was several measures off and still conducting. Because of that, the contralto Caroline Unger walked over and turned Beethoven around to accept the audience's cheers and applause. According to one witness, "the public received the musical hero with the utmost respect and sympathy, listened to his wonderful, gigantic creations with the most absorbed attention and broke out in jubilant applause, often during sections, and repeatedly at the end of them."

First Movement: Allegro ma non troppo

- Sonata Form
- Stormy mood
- the opening theme, played *pianissimo* over string tremolos, so much resembles the sound of an orchestra tuning
- Powerful theme emerges and drives to end

Second Mvt: Scherzo: Molto vivace

- Ternary form (Minuet)
- While adhering to the standard ternary design of a dance movement (scherzo-trio-scherzo, or minuet-trio-minuet), the scherzo section has an elaborate internal structure: it is a complete sonata form. Within this sonata form, the first group of the exposition starts out with a fugue. The contrasting trio section is in D major and in duple time. The trio is the first time the trombones play in the work.

Third Movement: Adagio molto e cantabile

- Lyrical Mvt
- Loose variation form
- Each variation progressively elaborates melody and rhythm

Trivia

- Sony's development of the compact disc (longest known performance 74 min)
- European Union's anthem (also NAZI Germany)
- The Symphony No. 9, with accompanying chorus, is traditionally performed throughout Japan during its New Year's celebrations



Fourth Movement:

- famous choral finale is Beethoven's musical representation of Universal Brotherhood
- "inner symphony" in four movements or "acts"
- I: theme and variations
- II: 6/8 Military march
- III: slow meditation on "Seid umschlungen, Millionen" (be embraced millions)
- IV: fugato on I and III

Act I

- Violent, dissonant, chaotic opening comes to a head with the entrance of the hero baritone recitative
- Four measure wind intro punctuated with shouts of "Joy" from the chorus
- All at once, instrumental music and vocal music were fused in a manner entirely new, demonstrating a composer's expressive need trumps everything (including genre)

Act II

- "Promise of the Enlightenment"
- "Ode to Joy" becomes a triumphant military march.
- Bass drum and bassoons announce the "army of freedom" approach
- Marching band plays the declaration of victory

Acts III and IV

- Act III about thanksgiving and devotion
- Act IV: extended celebration of light, life, and love