



COMPOSER SPOTLIGHT



LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

1770–1827

Classical and
Early Romantic



A Tough Start

Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany, and had a difficult childhood. His father wanted him to be the next Mozart and often forced him to practice late into the night. Despite this tough upbringing, Beethoven's talent shone through, and by the age of 12, he was already composing and performing. He even became the family breadwinner when his father's health declined.

A Revolutionary Composer

Beethoven is one of the most famous composers in history. He pushed the boundaries of music during his time, helping transition the Classical style into the more emotional Romantic era. Beethoven's music is known for being bold, dramatic, and full of surprises—just like the composer himself!



A Temperamental Genius

Beethoven had a fiery personality—he was known for being stubborn, passionate, and sometimes difficult. He was very demanding of himself and others, which helped him create music that still amazes listeners today. Even though he faced many struggles, his perseverance and creativity shaped the future of music.

Overcoming Deafness

One of the most amazing things about Beethoven is that he wrote some of his greatest music after he lost his hearing. By the time he was in his 30s, he had begun going deaf. Even though he couldn't hear well, Beethoven continued to compose, using his incredible understanding of music to "hear" it in his mind.

Significant Works:

- Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 67
- Piano Sonata No. 14 "Moonlight," Op. 27, No. 2
- Für Elise, WoO 59