

SYMPHONY N° 5, LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN



INTRO

“Ta ta ta taaa... Ta ta ta taaa!” Who is knocking so impatiently? Would you dare open the door? What might happen? What would you do if that person, being, ghost or - who knows - that beast, refuses to go away? If it keeps on knocking “Ta ta ta... Ta ta ta taaa!” on the other side of the door?

The fifth symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven is one of the most famous musical works of all time. You have most probably heard the first notes before.

A NEW TITLE FOR THE FIFTH

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The songs we hear on the radio nowadays are usually no more than 3 minutes long. That was quite different in Ludwig van Beethoven's days! His fifth symphony has four movements and lasts a little over half an hour.

This piece of music is known as *Beethoven's fifth symphony*, simply because it is the fifth symphony Ludwig wrote. A little boring for a title, don't you think? But if you listen to the symphony, you will discover that the music itself is anything but boring!! Ludwig wrote the piece in the year 1808, and in those days people didn't think to give titles to their musical works.

Who knows, maybe you can come up with one! Here are a few games to help you along. If you like, you can even come up with a title for each of the four movements of the symphony.

LISTEN TO (A MOVEMENT OF) THE SYMPHONY...



and close your eyes. Imagine that this music accompanies a film or a game. What do you see happening?

try to find a painting or photo that fits with this music.

And make a drawing

PARLA ITALIANO?

Italian is the language of classical music. Whether a European composer spoke Dutch or German (like Ludwig), French, English, Spanish or another language, they always wrote their indications on musical scores in Italian.

For example, above the first part of his fifth symphony, Ludwig wrote *allegro* and for the second movement he wrote *andante*. Listen to the music and guess the meaning of these two Italian words.

Feel like a quick Italian lesson? In the text box you can see the Italian words most commonly used in classical music, along with their meanings.

<i>allegro</i>	fast
<i>andante</i>	calm
<i>lento</i>	slow
<i>piano</i>	soft
<i>forte</i>	loud
<i>pianissimo</i>	very soft
<i>fortissimo</i>	very loud
<i>crescendo</i>	start softly and grow increasingly loud



A PORTRAIT OF LUDWIG

A short, stout man with a very red face. Small, piercing eyes and bushy eyebrows, dressed in a very long overcoat that reached nearly to his ankles.

This is how someone described Ludwig after seeing him for the first time.



Draw a portrait of Ludwig!

Music

GRADUALLY GOING DEAF

Ludwig was only 26 when he began slowly but surely to lose his hearing. You need your ears to be able to hear music, and so hearing is the most important sense for a composer. Some people say that in this piece of music, you can hear the anguish of Ludwig. His hearing grew worse and worse, until by the end of his life Ludwig had become completely deaf. You can easily understand that this is unbearable for a musician. But you can also discover sounds of hope and peace in this symphony, and especially in the second movement.

Which sound(s) would you miss the most if suddenly you were to go deaf? And what would your ears certainly not miss? Make a log book of sounds, including both the nicest and the most annoying sounds.

NICE SOUNDS

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ANNOYING SOUNDS

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SHORT SHORT SHORT LONG

What does it sound like with a spoon banging on a pot? Can you also play them with your fingers on the table, or on an old shoebox? Maybe you even have a musical instrument at home, on which you can play *short short short loooooong!* A glass, a fork, a book, a pencil, Lego bricks, a tablet, a houseplant... Nothing is too crazy to play Beethoven's fifth on!

Gather a pile of objects around you and make your own version of this symphony.

