

# Teacher's Resource Guide

## The Life and Times of Beethoven



**BEETHOVEN** *Symphony No. 5*

Allentown Symphony Orchestra

**Music Director**

Diane Wittry

**Guest Artist**

Michael Boudewyns, Really Inventive Stuff

ALLENTOWN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA and  
REALLY INVENTIVE STUFF present

## *The Life and Times of Beethoven*

Diane Wittry, *conductor*  
Michael Boudewyns, *Professor Nigel Taproot*  
Sara Valentine, *director*

Created and designed by Really Inventive Stuff  
Written by Michael Boudewyns & Sara Valentine  
Directed by Sara Valentine  
Music & score advising by Steven Jarvi

*The Life and Times of Beethoven* was commissioned by the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. It premiered on September 29, 2013 at Powell Hall in St. Louis, Missouri, with Maestro Steven Jarvi and the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra.

## What will I see?



### **Program Description**

Professor Nigel Taproot, the affable and learned classical music aficionado, invites you to an original Really Inventive Stuff program for families celebrating Beethoven, his remarkable age, and four famous notes. Featuring the music of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, with a playful peppering of fascinating facts and timely trivia. (Did you know Washington was president during Beethoven's lifetime? Roller skates were invented, too!) This enlightening performance is a splendid introduction to Beethoven's musical genius.

## Who will I see?

### Allentown Symphony Orchestra

With passion and finesse, the Allentown Symphony with Music Director & Conductor, Diane Wittry, plays time-honored masterworks, newly commissioned world premieres, and unusual and intriguing repertoire, including works by prominent new composers. Each year, the ASO performs more than 20 classical, pops, educational, and family concerts. In 2014, the orchestra received the national American Prize for "orchestral excellence."

Exciting world-class artists that have performed with the ASO include Midori, Emanuel Ax, Richard Stoltzman, Garrick Ohlsson, Angela Meade, and Peter Serkin, as well as jazz trumpeter Byron Stripling, saxophonist Branford Marsalis, and Broadway vocalist Christiane Noll. The orchestra's classical trained musicians include players from the major urban centers of New York, Baltimore-D.C., and Philadelphia.

The ASO has received music commissioning grants from the National Endowment of the Arts, and from the League of American Orchestras in support of its El Sistema-inspired program for at-risk youth. The Symphony Association also annually hosts the National Schadt String Competition which attracts top young performers from all over the world.

Music Director Diane Wittry, a California native who has worked with Michael Tilson Thomas among others, is known for her innovating programming style, using video, dancers, subtitles and other visuals that give her concerts a sense of occasion. She has been a stellar advocate for music education outreach for all ages and skill levels. Lehigh Valley native Ron Demkee serves as the Symphony's Associate Conductor, directing the Pops Series. The two previous ASO conductors were Donald Voorhees, the distinguished conductor of the studio orchestra for NBC's Emmy-award-winning *The Bell Telephone Hour* and William Smith, assistant Conductor to the Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy.

Presenting exciting concerts for all, the Allentown Symphony is only one of a handful of American orchestras to own its own acoustically superb concert hall, Miller Symphony Hall. As it has for the last 65 years, the Allentown Symphony will continue its pursuit of excellence with passion, keeping alive the legacy of masterworks while bringing the works of modern masters to the concert stage for you and all of the community.

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### Really Inventive Stuff, theatre company

Founded in 2004 by Sara Valentine and Michael Boudewyns, Really Inventive Stuff has the honor of performing family and education concerts with orchestras, conductors and musicians from all around the world. Based outside of Portland, Maine, our company of classically-trained performers is committed to sharing inspiring, memorable experiences with audiences of all ages. Our productions are created with a core commitment to imaginative, playful, and entertaining storytelling. With a sprinkling of child-like enthusiasm, we create skillful, delightful performances that combine our love of vaudeville and our passion for classic theatre, while keeping the music in the spotlight. [www.ReallyInventiveStuff.com](http://www.ReallyInventiveStuff.com)



### Diane Wittry, ASO Music Director

Diane Wittry is considered one of the foremost conductors in the United States today. In December 2015, she was named as one of the "Top 30 Influencers" in music by Musical America for her work leading orchestras and teaching hundreds of young conductors throughout the world. Frequently engaged as a guest conductor, she has led symphonic performances in more than 10 countries and throughout the U.S. She has worked with conductors Michael Tilson Thomas, Pierre Boulez, and Daniel Lewis, among others, and has been profiled in the *New York Times*.

The Allentown Symphony Association appointed Diane Wittry as its third Music Director and Conductor in 1995. Under her artistic leadership, the Orchestra has risen to increasing standards of

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excellence, performing exciting music with passion and dedication, and winning the prestigious national "American Prize" for artistic quality in 2014.

During her tenure with the ASO, she has built a well-earned reputation for her innovative style of multi-media programming that uses other art forms to enhance the concert experience. Diane has expanded the concert series and developed outreach programs such as the Schadt National String Competition, Young Musicians String Festival, the Phantasy Symphony for amateur musicians, the Conducting Fellows Program, ASO Annual Youth and Family Concerts, Meet the Artists brown bag talks, and the Allentown Symphony Chorus.

Diane Wittry has also championed the commissioning of new works and the ASO will perform two world premieres during 2016-2017 season. A composer herself, Diane's compositions have been performed and recorded by orchestras in the United States and Europe and are published by the Theodore Presser Company. Her piece "Mist," premiered by the Allentown Symphony and recorded by the Slovak State Orchestra, is available for download on Spotify and amazon.

In addition to her work with the ASO, Diane Wittry has served as the Associate Conductor of the renowned Ojai Music Festival (CA); the Artistic Director of the International Music Program with the Sarajevo Philharmonic, Bosnia; and Music Director and Conductor of the Symphony of Southeast Texas, the Norwalk Symphony (CT), and the Ridgewood Symphony (NJ). Wittry is an award-winning author, composer, and teacher. Her two books, *Beyond the Baton*, and *Baton Basics-Communicating Music through Gestures*, have become standards in the field. Hundreds of conductors from all over the world have studied conducting with her, and she regularly gives presentations at the Juilliard School of Music, the Curtis Institute, the Manhattan School of Music, and for the League of American Orchestras and the Conductors Guild National Conferences.

Wittry has received the national Helen M. Thompson Award from the League of American Orchestras, the USC Thornton School of Music Outstanding Alumnus Award, the Gold Crown Award (Pasadena, CA), the Women of Excellence Award (Beaumont, TX), the Arts Ovation Award and the Woman of Distinction Award (Allentown, PA). Last November, the mayor of Allentown declared Oct 1st Diane Wittry appreciation day in recognition of her 20 years of service to the Allentown Symphony and the Lehigh Valley.



### Michael Boudewyns, actor

Michael Boudewyns is a member of Really Inventive Stuff, and he's super excited to return to the Allentown Symphony Orchestra. Last season he performed *Peter and the Wolf* and *The Toy Symphony*. Based outside of Portland, Maine, and founded in 2004, Really Inventive Stuff, noted for "using simplicity as a form of genius" by The Philadelphia Inquirer, regularly performs family concerts with orchestras internationally (Singapore), in Canada (Winnipeg, Victoria) and around the United States; including the National Symphony, Philadelphia, Saint Louis, Utah, Seattle, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Richmond, Hartford, Des Moines, Texarkana, Harrisburg, New Haven, Lincoln, Richardson, Rochester, Portland, Delaware, Princeton, Illinois, Symphony in C, Annapolis, Kennett, the Symphony of Southeast Texas, and the Westchester Philharmonic. This season, in addition to Allentown, Michael performs with with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (*Peter and the Wolf*), Santa Rosa Symphony (*Green Eggs and Ham &*

*Tubby the Tuba*), Texarkana Symphony Orchestra (*Peter and the Wolf*), Temple Symphony Orchestra (*Peter and the Wolf & The Toy Symphony*), Richmond Symphony Orchestra (*Peter and the Wolf*), and the Princeton Symphony Orchestra (*Peter and the Wolf*).

Michael grew up in Iowa. He has a BA in Theatre from University of Northern Iowa, and his MFA in Acting from the Professional Theatre Training Program at the University of Delaware. To learn more, visit: [www.ReallyInventiveStuff.com](http://www.ReallyInventiveStuff.com).

## Beethoven's Biography

**Ludwig van Beethoven** (1770-1827) is one of the most famous composers of all time. His musical style was in between the classical period and the romantic.

He was born in Bonn, Germany. His father, who was a singer, was his first teacher. It was obvious early on that Beethoven was a musical genius. After a while, even though he was still only a boy, Ludwig became a traveling performer, and soon, he was supporting his family.

In his early twenties, Beethoven moved to Vienna, where he spent the rest of his life. Beethoven was one of the first composers to make a living without being employed by the church or a member of the nobility. At first, he was known as a virtuoso (really good) pianist.

When he was around 26 years old, Beethoven started going deaf. However, because he knew how music sounded like, he was able to "hear" the music in his mind even when he didn't hear it physically. The last time he performed in public was in 1811, when he tried (but failed) to perform his own piano concertos.

Beethoven never married. He had a reputation as a difficult, bad-tempered and emotional man, but he also had a circle of very close friends who helped him deal with his worst times. In his later years people communicated with him through his "conversation books": they would write to him and he would reply, either by speaking or writing.

He also had some interesting personality traits. For example, he stopped performing at the piano if the audience chatted amongst themselves, or gave him less than their full attention. Stomach problems and increasing deafness also made him irritable.

Beethoven is considered one of the greatest musical geniuses who ever lived. He may be most famous for his nine symphonies, the most famous being his fifth symphony, but he also wrote many other kinds of music: chamber and choral music, piano music and string quartets, and an opera. His 32 piano sonatas are especially famous.

Source: <http://www.classicsforkids.com/pastshows.asp?id=233>

Source: <http://www.pianolessons4children.com/composers/beethoven.php>

## Beethoven: A Man of the People

The people adored Beethoven, even though he was often moody and bad-tempered in person. His enormous popularity is due to his glorious music and to Beethoven's sense of himself as "a man of the people" at a time when political revolutions in France and America were also asserting the power of people. Beethoven did not write polite, elegant music to entertain kings and queens. He wrote big, passionate, emotional "music for the ages" that made people sit up and listen – and they liked what they heard. City governments built civic concert halls and hosted municipal orchestras to meet the public demand to hear Beethoven's music. Beethoven himself responded to the popular demand by increasing the size of the orchestra to make a bigger sound. He added the piccolo and the contra-bassoon to the orchestra to play notes that were both higher and lower than had been heard before. He experimented with "program music," using music to paint pictures of settings or events, like peaceful country picnics or turbulent battles at sea. He also changed the relationship between the orchestra and "special guest" musicians, such as pianists and singers, so that audiences never knew what to expect next.

Source: <https://www.atlantasymphony.org/EducationAndCommunity/StudyGuides>

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## The Fifth Symphony

The Fifth Symphony, with its "da-da-da-daaa" beginning, is one of the world's most famous pieces of music. Beethoven took these simple tones and rhythms and built the whole first movement around them. It has been suggested that these four notes represent the sound of Fate knocking at the door.

Beethoven wrote all kinds of musical forms but his symphonies are what really secured his reputation as a composer. A symphony is a large-scale orchestral work performed in three or four smaller sections, known as "movements."

Beethoven's Fifth Symphony is probably the most famous symphony of all time. Beethoven commands the audience to listen with a simple yet landmark opening motif of four notes. A motif is a short rhythmic or melodic phrase that is repeated in a composition. Listen to the opening of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony for the trademark motif.

Try playing "Rock, Paper, Scissors" in time with the beat — counting 1-2-3 on the short notes and delivering either rock, paper or scissors on the long note. Beethoven repeats that motif throughout his Fifth Symphony. It seems to command the audience's attention. It demands to be heard. Scholars have suggested that Beethoven's famous motif is asking a philosophical question about the meaning of life or the existence of God.

Source: <http://www.classical-music.com/article/ten-pieces-special-part-1-beethovens-symphony-no-5>

## Beethoven was deaf

Early in his career, when he was only 26 years old, Beethoven noticed that he was unable to hear high notes. Over the next 20 years, Beethoven slowly became totally deaf.

No one knows for certain what caused Beethoven's deafness, although it was probably due to several different health conditions. In Beethoven's day, society was extremely uncomfortable with disabilities and judged them harshly. In response to those attitudes, Beethoven wrote many letters to his brothers sharing his anger, resentment and despair at the prospect of becoming deaf. During his career, he used "ear trumpets" and handwritten "conversation books" to communicate despite his deafness.

During this same period when he was increasingly turning deaf, Beethoven also wrote some of the most incredible music the world has ever heard. In truth, Beethoven's deafness affected his social life more than his music. He became increasingly isolated from family and friends but he never stopped writing music.

It is important to note that Beethoven's music is remarkable all by itself — in the same way that Shakespeare, Michelangelo and Picasso are remarkable. Beethoven's deafness doesn't make his great work "greater" — but it does say something about the incredible dedication he applied to his life's work.

Source: <https://www.atlantasymphony.org/EducationAndCommunity/StudyGuides>

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## Vienna: Fun Facts

Vienna is located in Europe. It is a city in the country of Austria. Vienna is often called The City of Music, or the World's Capital of Music, as more famous composers have lived here than in any other city in the world. And 4 of the top 10 classical composers in history worked in Vienna between 1750 and 1825. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Joseph Haydn, Franz Schubert, Johann Straus and Johannes Brahms are just a few who called Vienna home.

The Vienna Zoo is the world's oldest and only baroque zoo. Built in 1752, the zoo was once the private menagerie of Emperor Franz Stephen and Empress Maria Theresa. The Vienna Zoo now boasts over 700 different animal species and was voted the best zoo in Europe. Plus, with its original baroque architecture, it is also considered the world's most beautiful zoo.

Pez, the fun little tablet candies that we all know and love, were invented in Vienna in 1927. The name Pez is an abbreviation on the German word "pfefferminz", meaning peppermint. Because the original PEZ candies only came in that one flavor! The dispenser was invented in 1949.

The snow globe was also invented in Vienna. In 1900, Erwin Perzy, a fine instruments mechanic, was trying to improve the brightness of lightbulbs for a surgical lamp. But instead, he accidentally invented a snow globe. This first snow globe featured The Basilica of Mariazell, and was the catalyst for Perzy and his brother to open The Original Vienna Snow Globe shop.

Source: <http://www.kaleyann.com/10-fun-facts-vienna/>

# Instruments of the Orchestra

## Strings

violins, violas, cellos, double basses, and harp

- All string instruments have four strings;
- The vibration of the strings produces the sound;
- A string player either draws a bow made of horsehair across the strings, or plucks the strings with his or her fingers to produce sound;
- The larger the instrument, the lower the sound – violins make the highest sounds and double basses the lowest;
- Every string instrument is constructed of pieces of wood carefully glued together and covered with several coats of varnish – no nails or screws are used.

## Woodwinds

Flutes, oboes, clarinets and bassoons

- Woodwind instruments are basically just tubes pierced with holes. The musician blows through the tube while covering some holes to produce different notes;
- Many wind instruments are played with reeds. A reed is a thin piece of cane that is set in motion as the musician blows across it. The oboe, and bassoon use a double reed while the clarinet uses a single reed;
- Most of the wind instruments are made from wood, like ebony, except for the flute, which is almost always made of silver;
- Flutes create the highest notes, bassoons the lowest.

## Brass

Trumpets, french horns, trombones and tubas

- Brass instruments produce the most resounding tones of all the instruments in the orchestra;
- They are constructed from metallic loops of tubing in different lengths, with a mouthpiece at one end and a bell shape at the other;
- The vibration of the musician's lips produces the sound as air is blown in the mouthpiece;
- Brass instruments have valves that the players press and release in order to change and produce different notes;
- Trumpet, trombone, and tuba players use a mute that is held over the bell to soften the tone – French horn players can do the same thing using their hand.

## Percussion

Tympani, bass drum, snare drum, xylophone, cymbals, gong, triangle, chimes, celesta, piano,

- Percussion instruments are made of naturally resonant materials like skin, wood, and metal;
- Sound is produced when the instrument is struck;
- The percussion provides rhythm and character to the orchestra;
- Different pitches are produced on the timpani by changing the skin tension either by tightening or loosening screws fixed to the shell, or by using the pedal.

Source: [http://artsalive.ca/pdf/mus/beethoven\\_e.pdf](http://artsalive.ca/pdf/mus/beethoven_e.pdf)

## An Acrostic Poem

Create an acrostic poem about Beethoven. Here's how it's done: You will see that Beethoven's name has been written vertically. Next to each letter of his name is a space. In each space, write a word that you think describes Beethoven and starts with that letter of the alphabet. The first one has been done for you. When you are finished, post your acrostic poem on the classroom bulletin board.

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Source: [http://artsalive.ca/pdf/mus/beethoven\\_e.pdf](http://artsalive.ca/pdf/mus/beethoven_e.pdf)

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## A Beethoven Cinquain

A cinquain (pronounced SING-kane) is a five line poem.

Write your own cinquain about Beethoven by following the format given.

First line – subject's name (Beethoven)

Second line – two adjectives or descriptive words

Third line – three verbs

Fourth line – a simile (like a . . . or, as a . . .)

Fifth Line – a synonym for the first line

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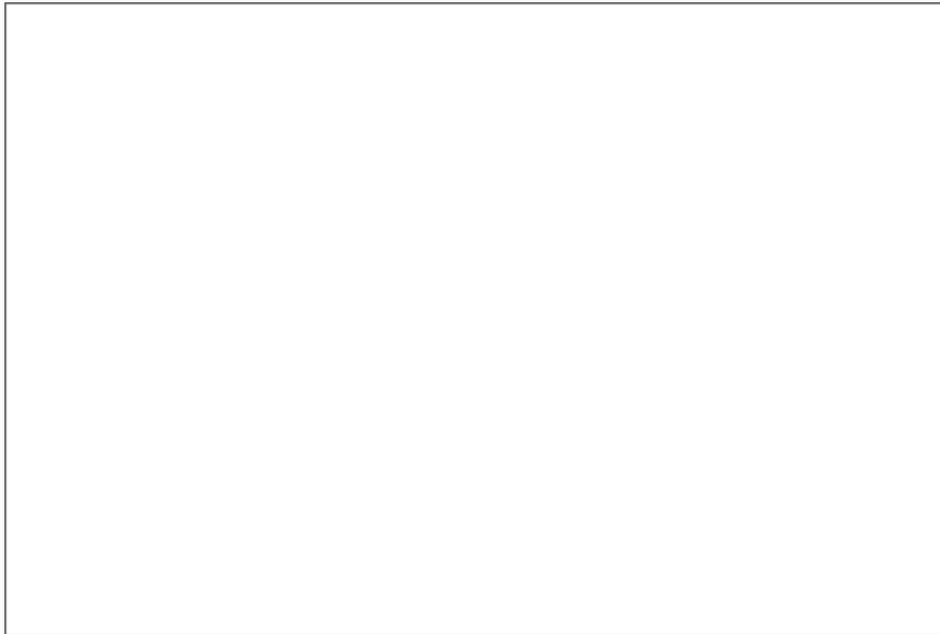
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Source: [http://artsalive.ca/pdf/mus/beethoven\\_e.pdf](http://artsalive.ca/pdf/mus/beethoven_e.pdf)

## A Postcard from Beethoven

In 1787, Beethoven made his first visit to Vienna. He didn't stay very long, but it is said that he met Mozart on that occasion. Create a postcard that Beethoven might have sent to his family from Vienna. You may want to read a little about Vienna to learn about the attractions there before you start. In the top square, draw the picture that would appear on one side of the postcard. In the second square, compose the note that Beethoven would have written, and draw the stamp.



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Source: [http://artsalive.ca/pdf/mus/beethoven\\_e.pdf](http://artsalive.ca/pdf/mus/beethoven_e.pdf)

## Beethoven Mathematics

Solve the problems below and find out the answers to the following questions about Beethoven's life.

A. Beethoven had this many brothers.

$$1 + 1 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

B. He started playing piano at this age.

$$7 - 3 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

C. He had this many wives.

$$0 + 0 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

D. He began conducting orchestras at this age.

$$3 \times 4 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

E. Beethoven wrote this many symphonies.

$$4 + 5 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

F. He was this many years old when he died.

$$60 - 3 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Source: <http://www.dscl.org/kids/nest-activity-resources/beethoven.pdf>

## Additional Resources

### **Beethoven-Haus Bonn**

Beethoven-Haus Bonn is the German Beethoven Society. The site presents the association, the museum, the archives, publications and concerts. Site in German and English. This link leads to it's excellent section for kids.

[http://www.beethoven-haus-bonn.de/hallo-beethoven/fullscr\\_e.html](http://www.beethoven-haus-bonn.de/hallo-beethoven/fullscr_e.html)

### **Beethoven Reference Site**

This site provides detailed information on the life and works of Ludwig Van Beethoven and should prove an invaluable resource to students and teachers alike. Amongst the many pages are articles on the 'Immortal beloved', a family tree, discussions of the major works, a review of the places Beethoven knew and visited, and a variety of different picture galleries.

<http://www.lvbeethoven.co.uk/>

### **All About Beethoven**

The site offers information regarding the life, music and existence of the great composer.

<http://www.all-about-beethoven.com/>

### **The Centre of Beethoven Studies**

The Center is an extensive library and museum devoted solely to the life, works, and accomplishments of Ludwig van Beethoven. Located at San José State University. The Center is also the headquarters for the American Beethoven Society.

<http://www.sjsu.edu/beethoven/>

### **Making Music Fun - coloring page**

<https://makingmusicfun.net/pdf/worksheets/beethoven-coloring-page.pdf>

### **Making Music Fun - connect-the-dot-by-threes page**

<https://makingmusicfun.net/pdf/worksheets/beethoven-coloring-page.pdf>