

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

Born: December 17, 1770

Died: March 26, 1827

Ludwig van Beethoven was a German composer. He first studied music with his father, who was a singer. After awhile, even though he was still only a boy, he started traveling far and wide to perform and was soon supporting his family. Ludwig studied with famous composers like Hadyn and Mozart. He was known as a very serious boy, especially when it came to music.

Beethoven was musical genius, but writing music did not come easy. He was constantly changing the music he wrote. It got even harder for him when he started going deaf at the age of 30. Even though he could no longer hear, he went on to write some of his best music!

Beethoven is famous for his nine symphonies. But he also wrote many other kinds of music: chamber and choral music, music for piano and string quartets, ballets, as well as one opera.

Beethoven spent most of his adult life in Vienna and, because of his great music, came to be known as the most important composer who has ever lived.