The
MAYRON COLE PIANO METHOD

LEVEL PRE-ONE

Supplemental Solos

CLASSICAL FAVORITES

The Legacy of Ludwig van Beethoven



THE ONLY PIANO METHOD THAT TAKES STUDENTS FROM KINDERGARTEN TO COLLEGE

www.FreePianoMethod.com

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Ludwig van Beethoven
1770-1827

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Ludwig van Beethoven
1770-1827

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PRE-LEVEL 1 CLASSICAL FAVORITES

The Mayron Cole Piano Method

The Legacy of Ludwig van Beethoven

Title	Page
Chapter One: The Little Boy with the Big Name	1
Minuet	2
Moonlight Sonata	3
Chapter Two: The Grumpy Piano Teacher	4
The Tempest	5
Merry & Sad	6
Chapter Three: The Music Behind the Silence	7
Eroica	9
Fur Elise	10
Chapter Four: The Symphony of Love	11
Pastoral	12
Ode to Joy	13
Chapter Five: Breaking the Rules	15
Pathetique	17
The 5th Symphony	18
History Fun Sheet	19

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The Little Boy with the Big Name

written by Colleen Mayron Cole
based on the true story

Almost 250 years ago on a snowy winter day in Germany, a little boy named Ludwig started taking piano lessons. Ludwig loved his piano lessons so much that every afternoon he would run to the piano as soon as he got home from school. He would play his piano homework over and over until dinnertime. Sometimes he would even stay up all night playing the piano then sleepily head back out to school in the morning!



Everyone in his neighborhood knew how talented little Ludwig was. They could hear his beautiful piano playing as they walked by his house on their way to the town square. So when Ludwig was only ten years old, the church down the street from his house hired him to be the church organist. Ludwig was still just a little boy and his feet couldn't reach the organ pedals, so the church had a small organ made just for little Ludwig. Soon, the whole town was talking about the talented little boy with the big name: Ludwig van Beethoven.

Before long, Ludwig was being hired to play the piano all over town. He started teaching piano lessons after school and even tried his hand at writing his own piano music. When Ludwig was 17, he had the honor of playing the piano for Wolfgang Mozart who was a very famous composer. Mozart was so impressed with Ludwig's talent that he told Ludwig, "Someday you will be famous, too!"

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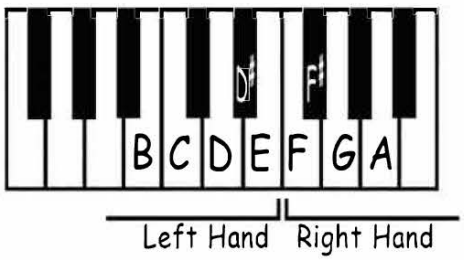
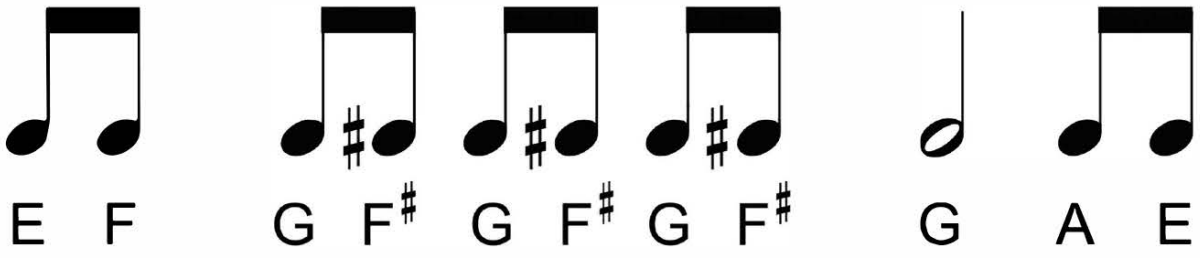


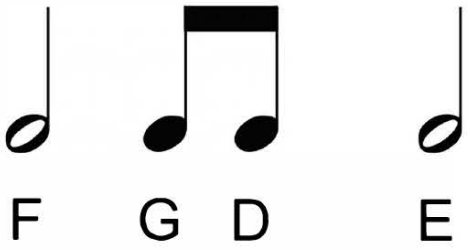
MINUET

(orchestrated accompaniment has a 5 beat count-in)

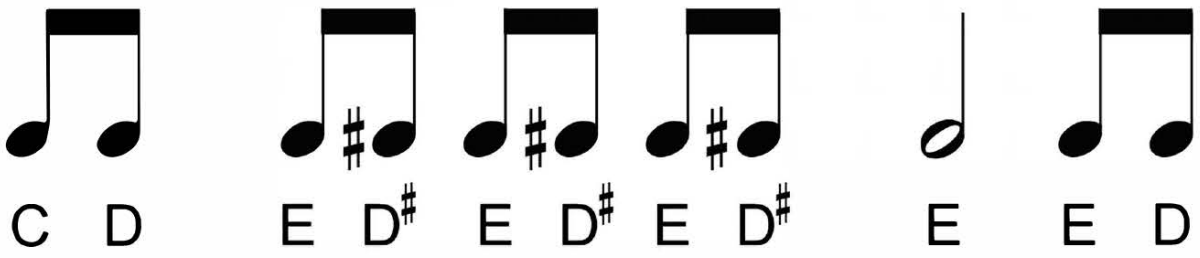
composed by: Ludwig van Beethoven
in 1795 at the age of 25

arranged by: Colleen Mayron Cole











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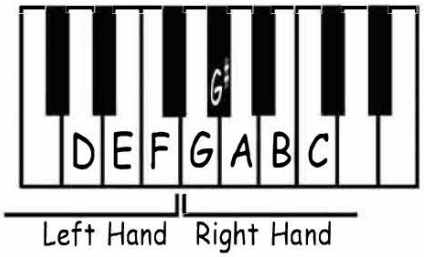
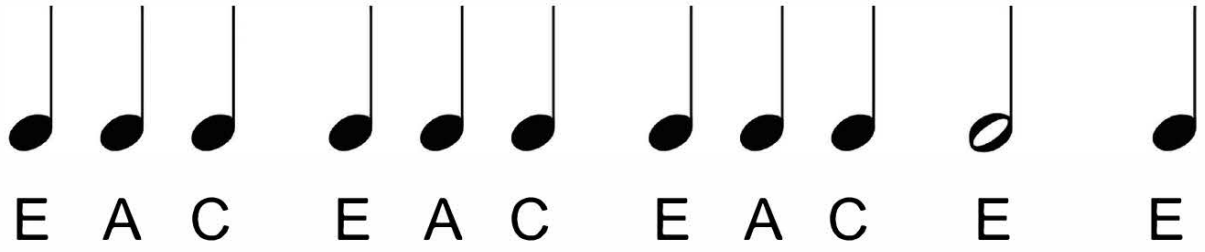
MOONLIGHT SONATA

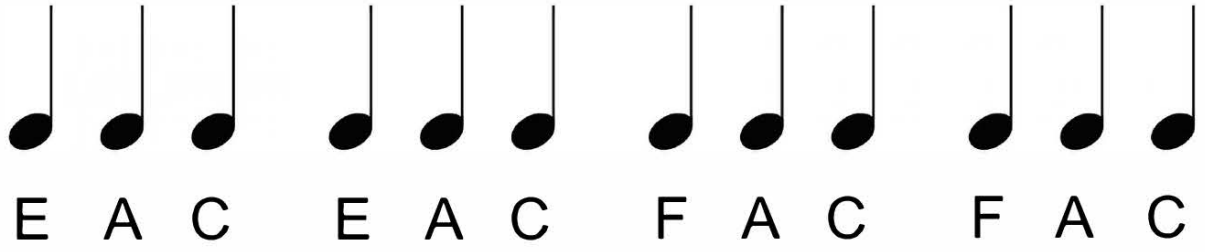
(orchestrated accompaniment has a 6 beat count-in)

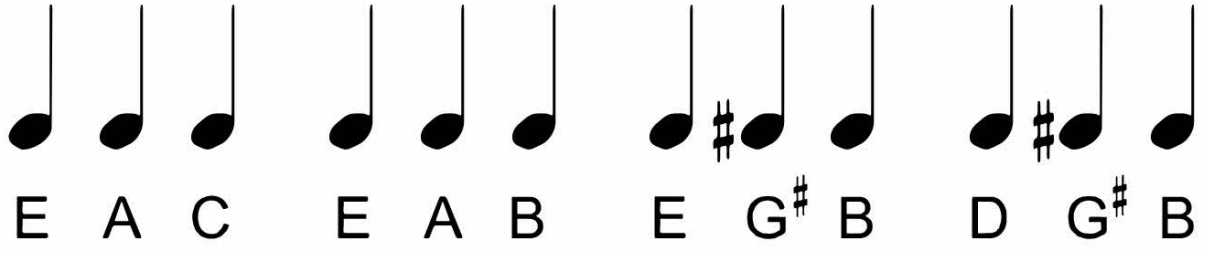


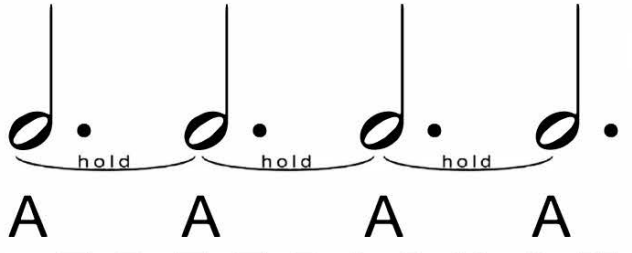
composed by: Ludwig van Beethoven
in 1801 at the age of 31

arranged by: Colleen Mayron Cole











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The Grumpy Piano Teacher

written by Colleen Mayron Cole
based on the true story

When he grew up, Mr. Ludwig van Beethoven taught piano to the wealthiest children in Vienna. The children were honored to take piano from a teacher that was on his way to becoming very famous, but they did not always enjoy taking piano from him. You see, Mr. Beethoven was sometimes a mean piano teacher who would scream at his students until they cried!



One sunny spring day, Mr. Beethoven and his friend Joseph Haydn were walking in the woods near Mr. Beethoven's house. Haydn decided to ask Mr. Beethoven why he was so mean to his students. Mr. Beethoven stopped next to a clear stream and thought for a moment. Then he quietly said, "It's my stomach; it always hurts. I try to be happy and nice, but I usually feel so sick. That's why I get so grumpy."

Mr. Beethoven's piano students did not know that their piano teacher usually felt sick, but when they heard the soulful music he wrote, they knew he had to be a nice person underneath his bad mood. Only a wonderfully loving person could create such beautiful music. In fact, the whole world was starting to be amazed by the stunning music composed by the grumpy piano teacher, Ludwig van Beethoven.

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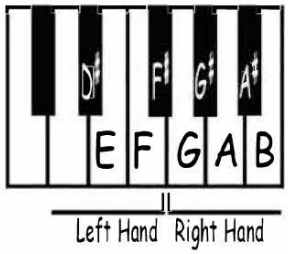
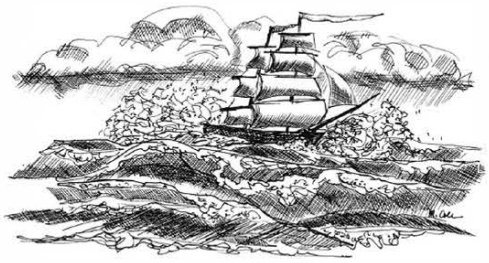


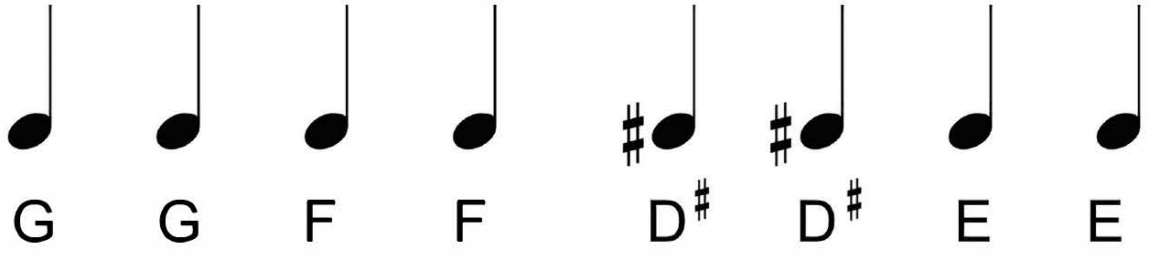


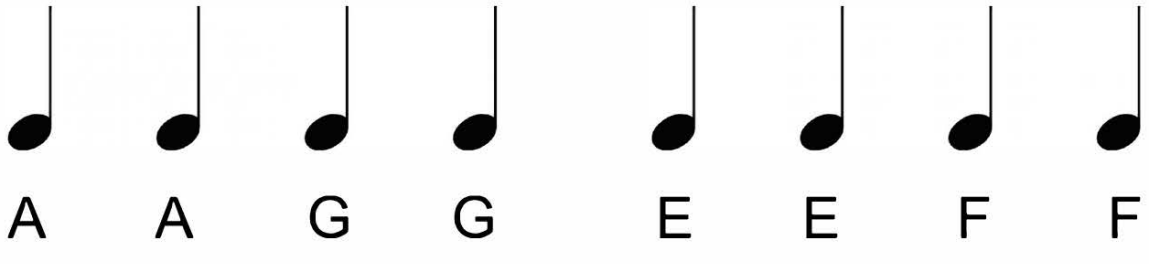
The Tempest

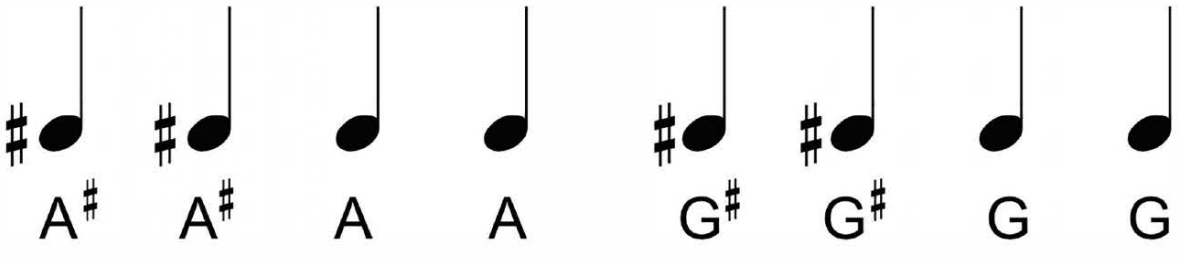
(orchestrated accompaniment has an 8 beat count-in)

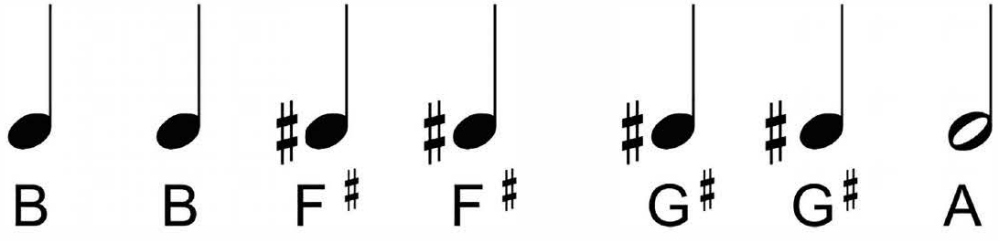
composed by: Ludwig van Beethoven
in 1802 at the age of 32

arranged by: Colleen Mayron Cole









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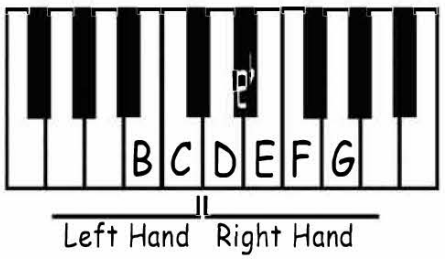
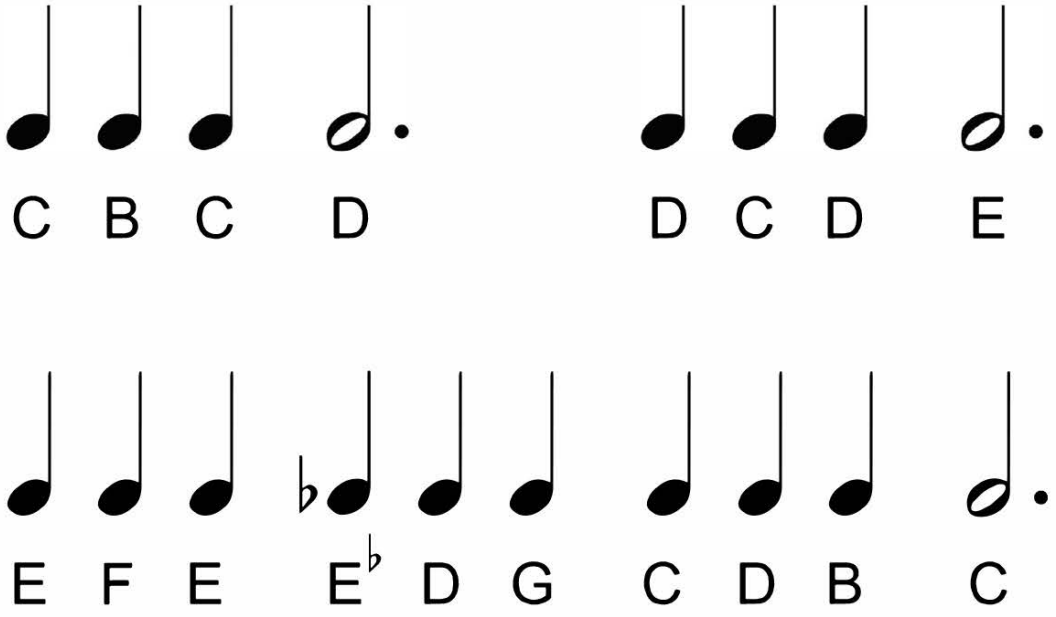


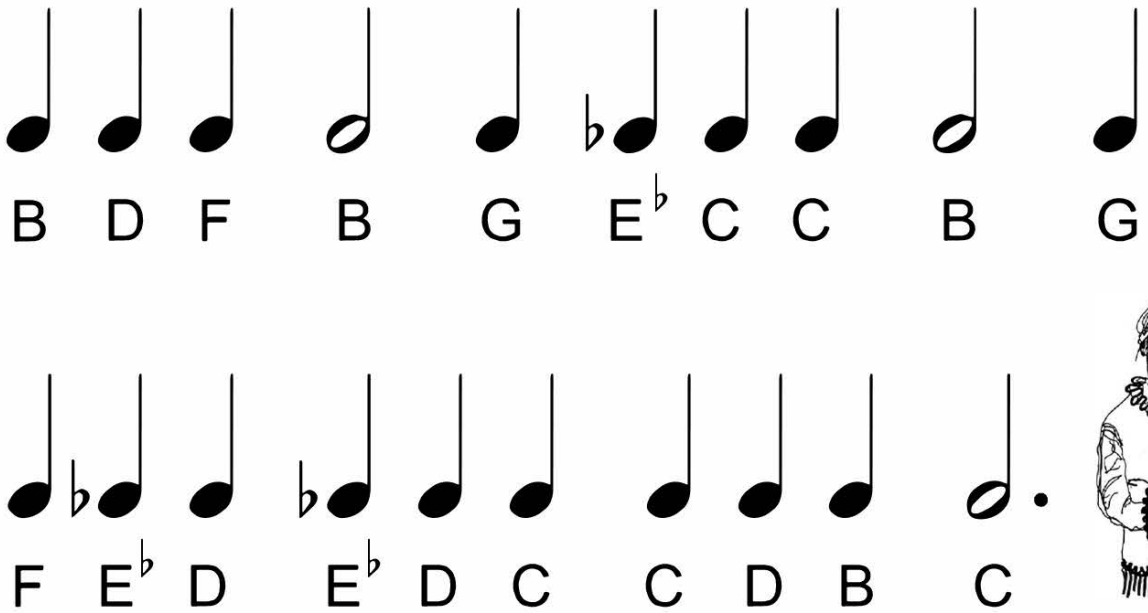
Merry & Sad

(orchestrated accompaniment has a 6 beat count-in)

composed by: Ludwig van Beethoven
in 1802 at the age of 32

arranged by: Colleen Mayron Cole





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THE MUSIC BEHIND THE SILENCE

written by Colleen Mayron Cole
based on the true story

When Beethoven was 27, he started to realize that he could not hear as well as he used to; and by his 33rd birthday, he was completely deaf. He was of course very sad about not being able to hear. How can a composer write music if he can't hear music?



One a brisk autumn morning, Beethoven took a carriage ride through the countryside with his brother. The carriage stopped on a bridge overlooking a mill. Beethoven slouched down in the seat and said, "I am so sad. When you hear that stream flowing over the water wheel, I hear nothing. When you hear a shepherd off in the distance calling her sheep, I hear nothing." Poor grumpy Beethoven, losing his hearing made him even grumpier.

But then… Beethoven realized that as the sounds of the world faded away, the music he heard in his mind became louder and louder! Even though Beethoven was sad about not being able to hear, it made him happy to have beautiful music in his head! So, he started enjoying summer afternoons of walking around in the woods near his house singing along with the music in his head. Once, he was singing so loudly that he scared a horse!

However, he still faced the problem of being able to share his brilliant music with the world. There is a big difference between hearing music in your head, and writing the music down without being able to hear what you write. How could the world get to hear the incredible music in Beethoven's head? Luckily for Beethoven, all of those years of practicing the piano for hours and hours as a little boy had taught Beethoven exactly what each key on the piano sounded like! He knew which notes would sound good with other notes. So, he started writing and writing and writing!

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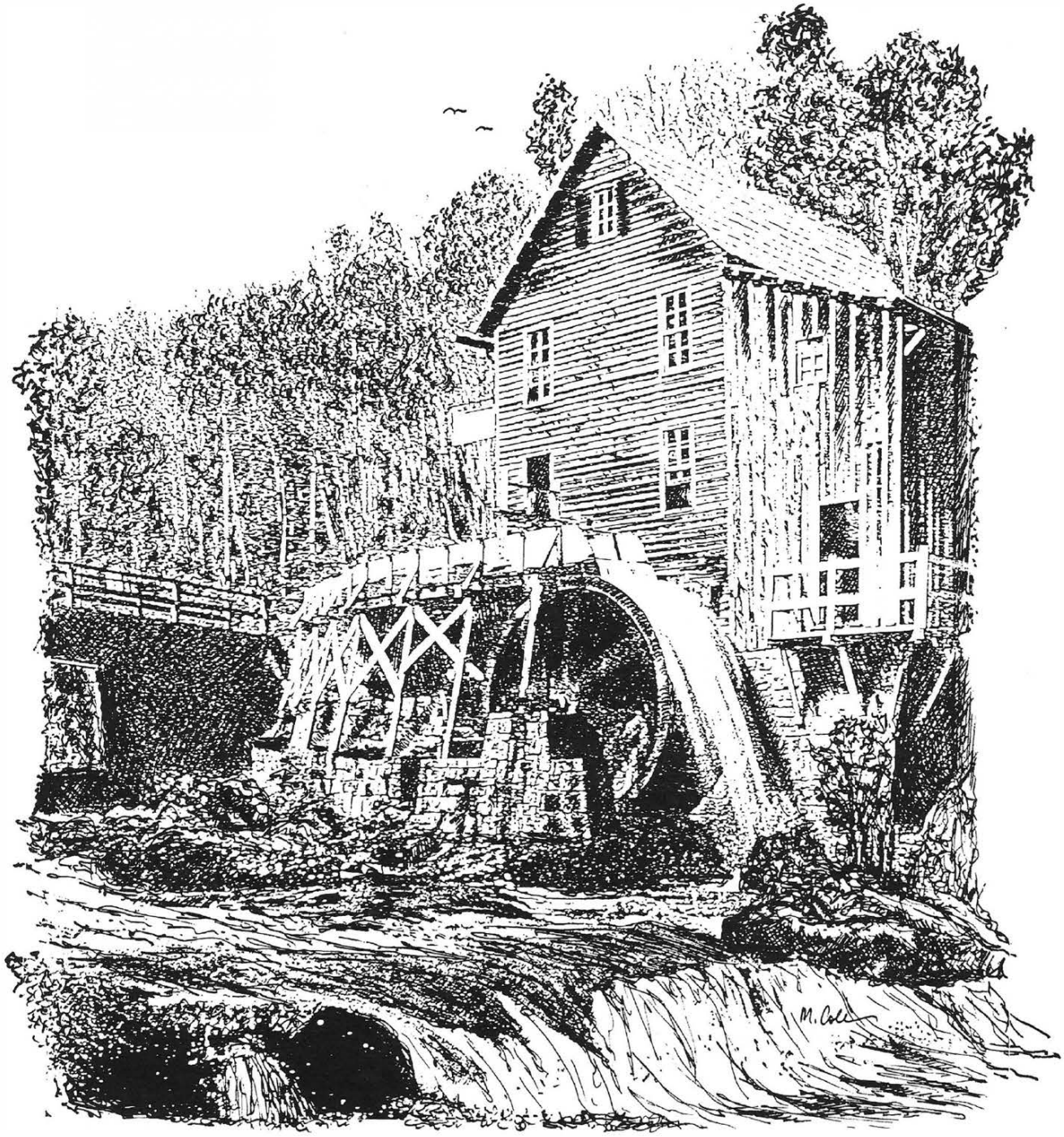

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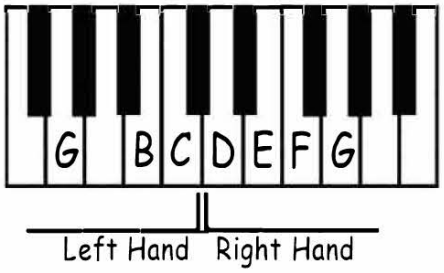


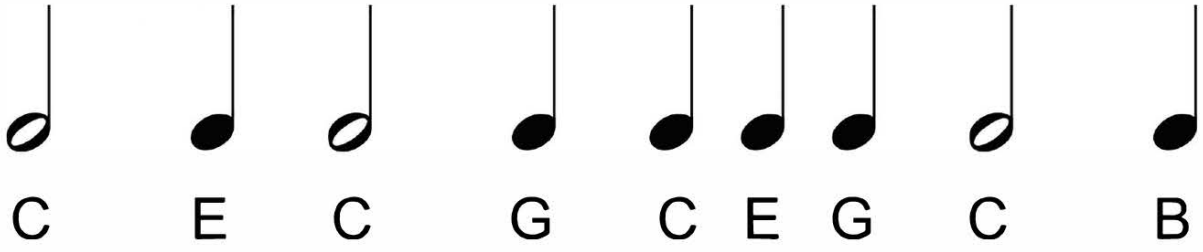
EROICA

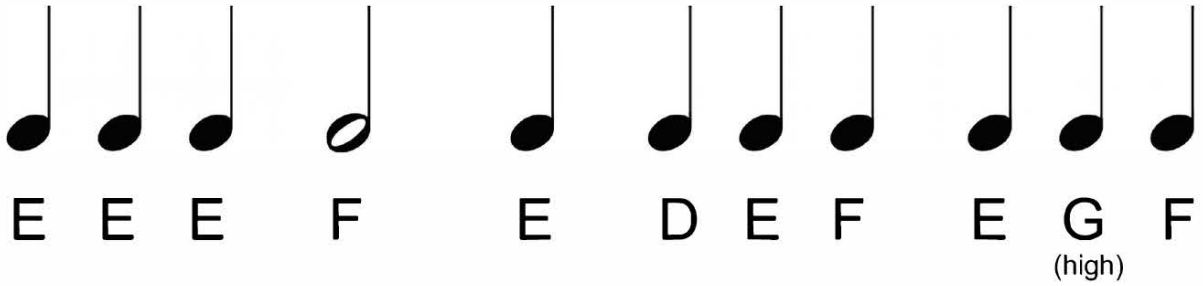
FROM THE 3RD SYMPHONY

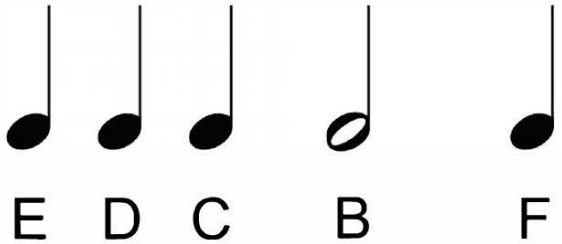
(orchestrated accompaniment has a 6 beat count-in)

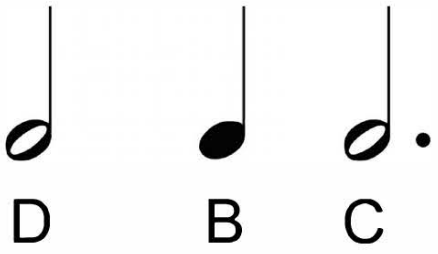
composed by: Ludwig van Beethoven
in 1804 at the age of 34

arranged by: Colleen Mayron Cole











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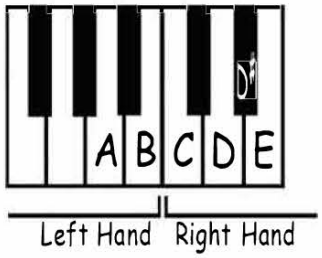
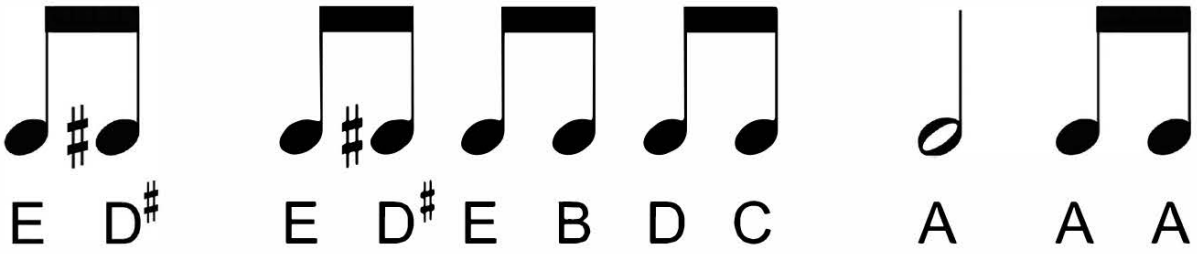


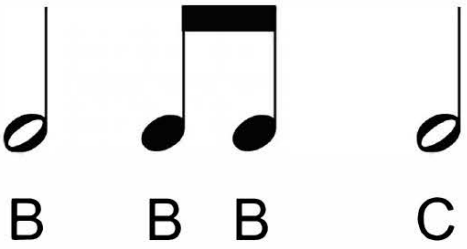
Fur Elise

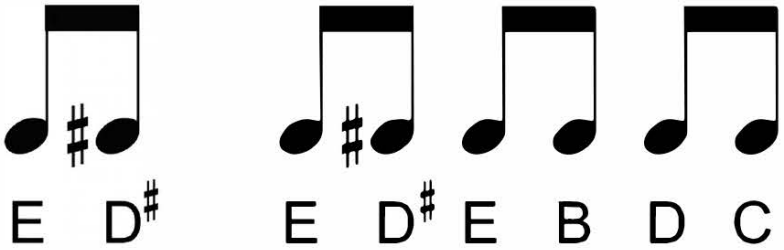
(orchestrated accompaniment has a 5 beat count-in)

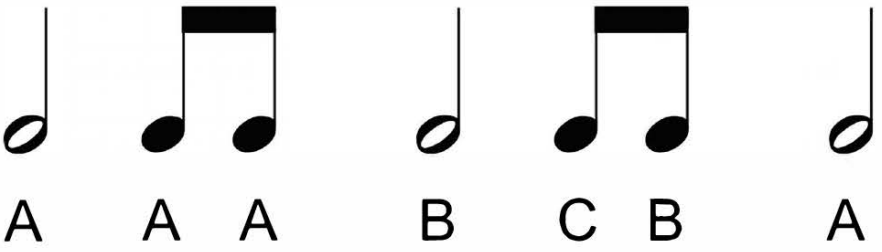
composed by: Ludwig van Beethoven
in 1810 at the age of 40

arranged by: Colleen Mayron Cole











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THE SYMPHONY OF LOVE

written by Colleen Mayron Cole
based on the true story

Most of the music Beethoven wrote, he wrote after he went deaf. By the time he was in his 50s, he had written eight full symphonies and was ready to write his ninth. He wanted his ninth symphony to have a powerful message.

Beethoven always loved to walk in the woods. He walked and thought; thought and walked. What should the message of his new symphony be? One drizzly afternoon as he watched the fog roll in through the trees, Beethoven realized that he wanted his ninth symphony to show the world that people all over the planet are all a part of one big family. He dreamed of a world filled with peace. Yes, underneath all of his grumpiness, Beethoven was truly filled with brotherly love.

He worked day and night on his 9th symphony. In the spring, he had a carpenter come into his apartment and cut the legs off of his piano. Beethoven wanted the piano to sit right on the floor so he could feel the vibrations of the notes as he played the tunes of his new symphony.

After months of work, it was time to perform his new symphony. The audience was filled with royalty. Beethoven stood in front of the orchestra and conducted the performance. He had to have an assistant conductor help him, because of course, Beethoven could not hear the musicians. At the end of the show, Beethoven put down his conductor's baton and stood there wondering what his symphony had sounded like. His assistant conductor turned Beethoven around to face the audience. To Beethoven's surprise, the audience was on its feet! Everyone was clapping and cheering! It was the most beautiful music they had ever heard! Everyone loved it! Beethoven smiled.



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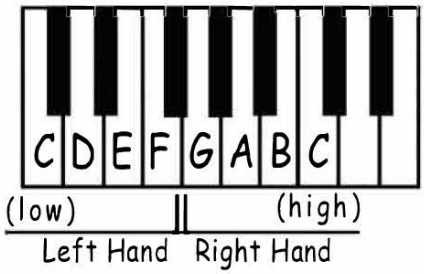
(orchestrated accompaniment has a 6 beat count-in)



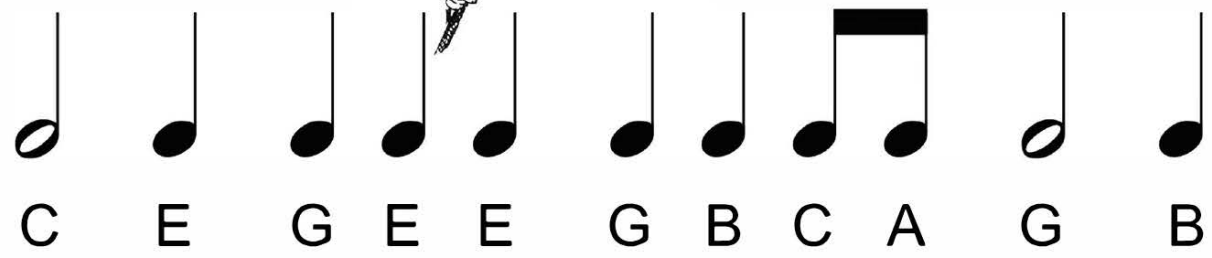


PASTORAL

FROM THE 6TH SYMPHONY

composed by: Ludwig van Beethoven
in 1808 at the age of 38

arranged by: Colleen Mayron Cole



C E G E E G B C A G B

(low) (high)



C G A G E F E C D E G

(high) (low)



C E G E E G B C A G B

(low) (high)



C G A G E F E C D C

(high) (low) (low)

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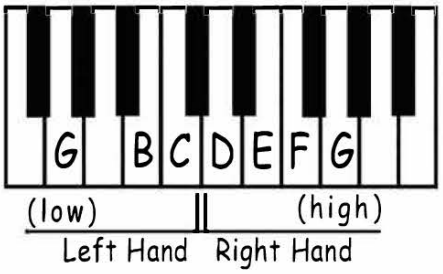


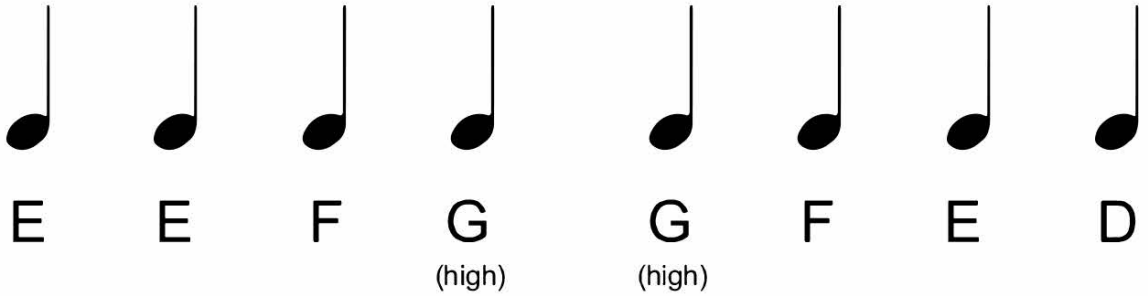
Ode to Joy

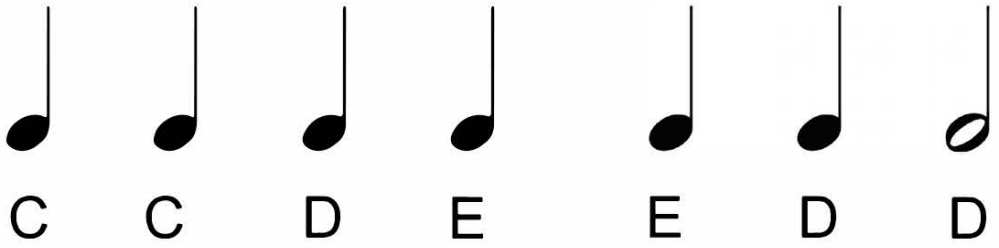
from the 9th Symphony

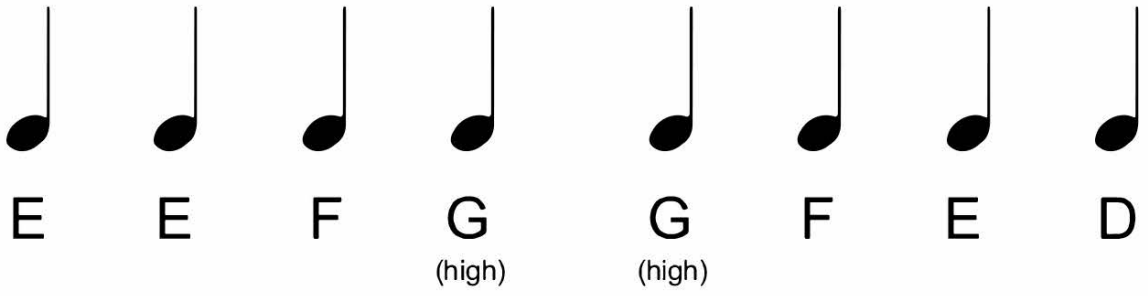
(orchestrated accompaniment has an 8 beat count-in)

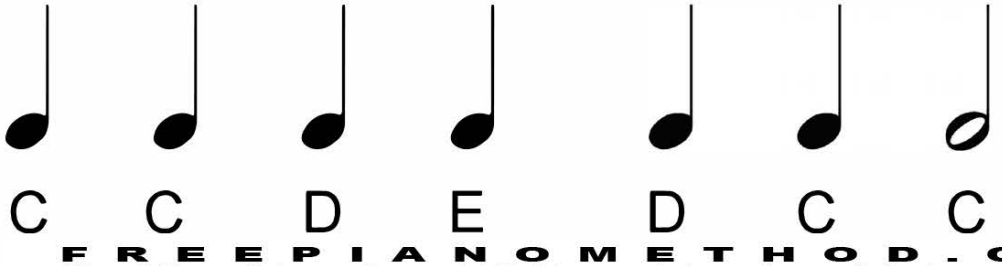
composed by: Ludwig van Beethoven
in 1824 at the age of 54

arranged by: Colleen Mayron Cole









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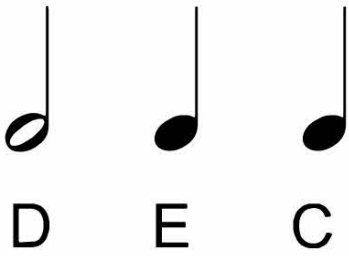

D E C



D E F E C





D E F E D C D G
(low)



E E F G G F E D
(high) (high)



C C D E D C C

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Breaking the Rules

written by Colleen Mayron Cole
based on the true story

As you can see, Beethoven was not like other people. He was grumpy and mean, but people loved him. He wrote brilliant music, but he couldn't hear. He was an absolute genius, but he couldn't even remember to take a bath! Yet why do we still listen to his music 200 years after he lived? What made Beethoven so special?

To find the answer,
we have to look back
to when he was 28
years old, just about
the time that he went deaf…



One morning, Beethoven walked through the woods to his favorite spot and sat on a big rock overlooking the valley below. He sat there all day thinking and thinking. He wondered, "I'm not like all of the other composers, so why should I write music like the other composers write? Why should I follow all of the rules?" He fed some acorns to two little squirrels. Then he thought, "I don't want my music to sound like Mozart's and Haydn's. I want to write the music that I hear in my head." He stood up and started pacing. "I don't care if my music breaks all of the rules! I like what I hear, and others will, too!"

So, Beethoven headed back home and spent the rest of his life writing music that broke all of the rules. Other composers wrote sweet little dances; Beethoven wrote music that was so emotional that the audience cried. Other composers wrote quiet church hymns; Beethoven wrote music that was so powerful that he broke the strings on his piano when he played it! Before Beethoven, music was considered to be just sweet little music-box sounds. With Beethoven's music, for the first time in history, music was art: art that had emotion; art that could move people; art that had a message. Ludwig van Beethoven's art… changed music forever!

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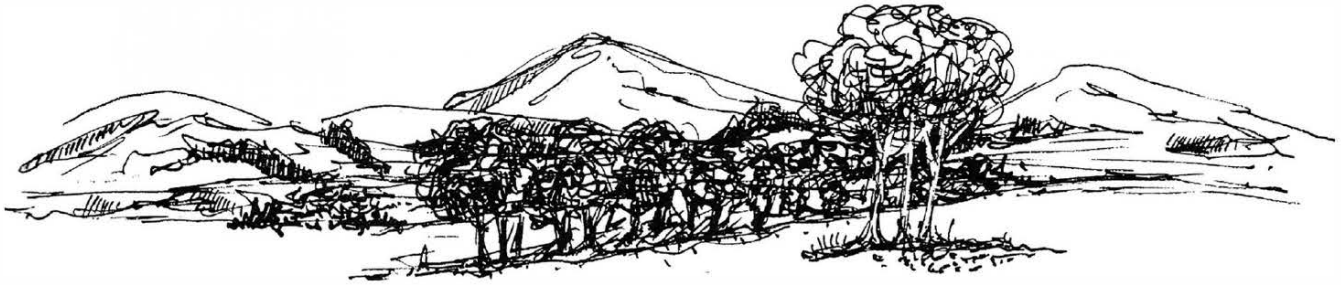



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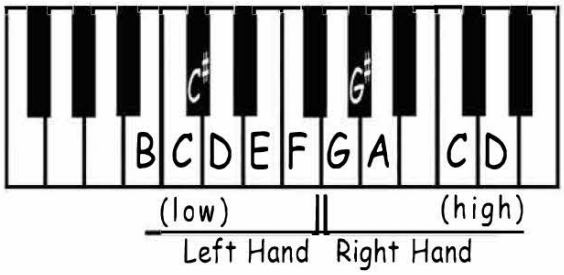


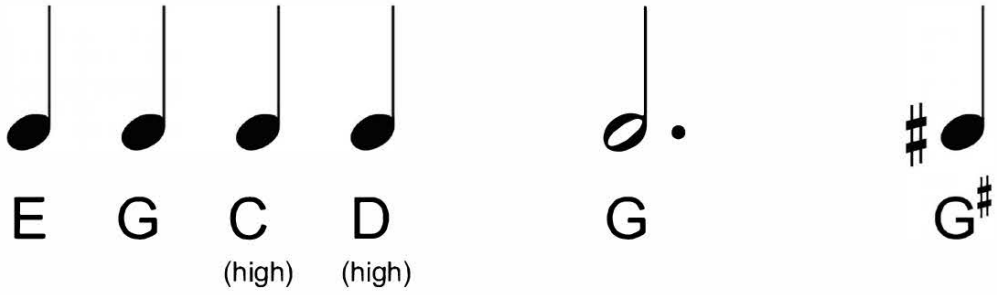
PATHETIQUE

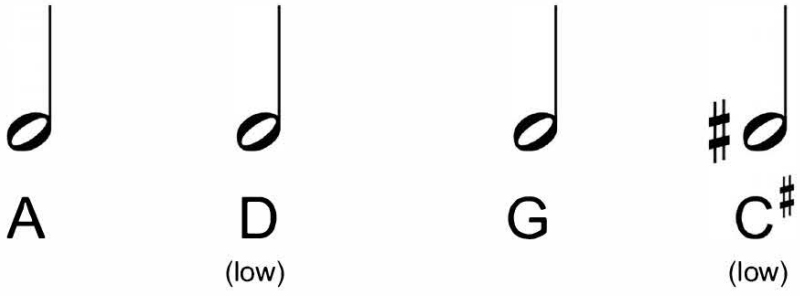
(orchestrated accompaniment has an 8 beat count-in)

composed by: Ludwig van Beethoven
in 1798 at the age of 28

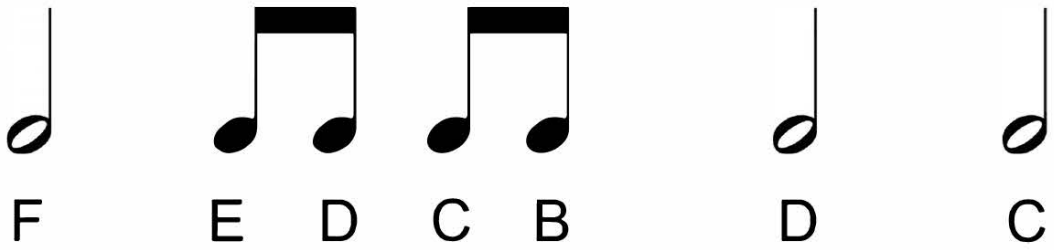
arranged by: Colleen Mayron Cole











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CREATED BY
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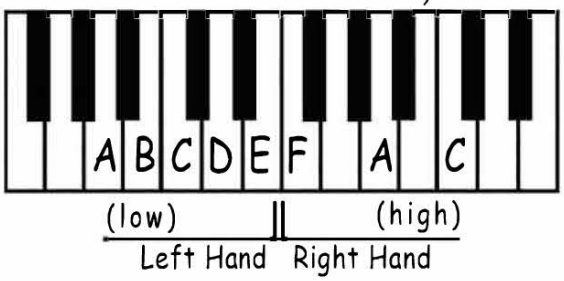
(orchestrated accompaniment has a 5 beat count-in)

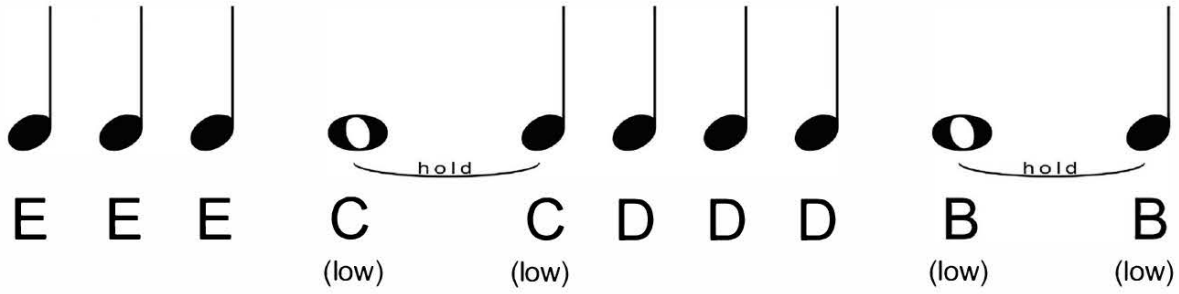


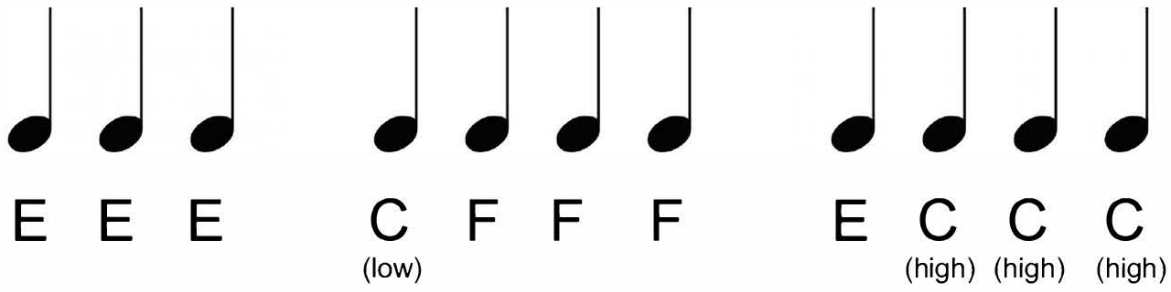


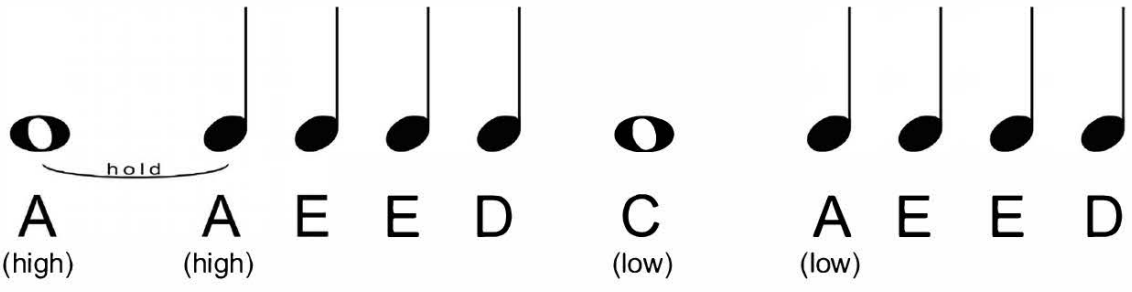
THE 5TH SYMPHONY

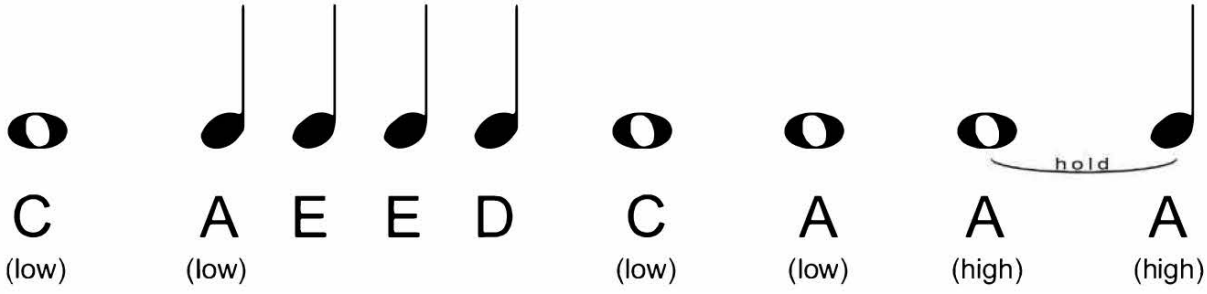
composed by: Ludwig van Beethoven
completed in 1808 at the age of 38

arranged by: Colleen Mayron Cole









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History Fun Sheet

Circle the correct answer to each question

1. When did Beethoven live?
   A. 2000 years ago
   B. 200 years ago
   C. 20 years ago

2. What was Beethoven's fist name?
   A. Ludwig
   B. Rudolph
   C. Sam

3. Where did Beethoven work as organist when he was 10?
   A. Max's Coffee Shop
   B. The grocery store down the street from his house
   C. The church down the street from his house



4. What had Beethoven completely lost by the time he was 33?
   A. His hearing
   B. His hair
   C. His marbles

5. At which performance did Beethoven's assistant turn Beethoven around to see the audience's applause?
   A. The season finale of his reality TV series
   B. His nephew Owen's graduation from Kindergarten
   C. Opening night of his 9th Symphony

6. What made Beethoven's music so different than all of the other composers before him?
   A. Beethoven's music was written in Japanese
   B. Beethoven's music was art that had emotion and a message
   C. Beethoven's music was actually written by his cat

7. How did Beethoven get to be such a wonderful pianist?
   A. He listened to his MP3 player every day
   B. He played video games every day
   C. He practiced his piano homework every day

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