



0. COMPOSING SYMPHONIES - Story Preface

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When he was in Vienna, Beethoven would take long walks. Thinking about his music, he would have pen and paper with him. This image depicts an artist's interpretation of Beethoven on his daily walk, in the Vienna suburb of Kahlenbergerdorf, on a good-weather day. Painting by Rudolf Klingsbogl.

While Beethoven was writing the *Appassionata*, Europe was in chaos. Although not political, Beethoven was sometimes asked to entertain French officers who were stationed in Vienna. He was not happy to do so and resented that some people thought him "a performing seal."

One night, Beethoven's patron - Prince Karl Lichnowsky - asked his friend to play for a few Frenchmen. Ludwig absolutely refused. Extremely angry that Lichnowsky expected him to perform - when he didn't want to - Beethoven stormed out in the rain, music score in hand. He reportedly said:

*Prince, what you are you are by accident of birth; what I am, I am through my own efforts. There have been thousands of princes and will be thousands more; there is only one Beethoven! **

Rain streaks can still be seen on on the original *Appassionata* manuscript.

Soon after this tempestuous episode, the maestro learned that he had a new nephew - Karl. Although he was happy about the birth, he did not quickly visit his brother and the newborn. He remained upset with Karl and Johanna for conceiving a child before they were married.

After leaving Prince Lichnowsky, in anger, Beethoven found a new patron who asked an intriguing question. How was it possible for a composer, who was losing his hearing, to still create music?

Although he could not hear all the notes with his ears, Beethoven said, he could hear them in his mind:

They are all there - in my head.

The notes for Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony* (another name for *Symphony No. 6 in F Major, Op. 68*) reflect his love of nature. They also reflect the degree of sorrow Beethoven must have felt as he continued to lose his hearing. The much-loved work was first performed on the 22nd of December, 1808. The maestro also debuted his 5th Symphony that night.

The concert (featuring eight separate works) was extremely important for Beethoven's reputation and his purse. He began with the *Pastoral*. The orchestra had only one rehearsal with its conductor.

As though a single rehearsal weren't difficult enough, Beethoven's conducting style had become very hard-to-follow. Sometimes, during a rehearsal, the orchestra would simply stop (because the musicians could just not go on with him). It was then left for someone else - who could act as an intermediary between the composer/conductor and the players - to take over.

For those reasons, and more, the December 22nd concert (at the Theater an der Wien) was nearly a disaster. There was so much new work - and it was so difficult to play - that the orchestra's members were afraid they would make mistakes.

The concert was four hours long. After an intermission, the gathered audience heard the first-ever performance of Beethoven's dramatic 5th Symphony. How it ever came off - with just one rehearsal - remains a mystery (or, perhaps, a miracle).

The audience also heard something unusual that night. Beethoven's 5th is a different kind of symphony. One cannot really say it has a melody - it just keeps building to a climactic explosion in the finale. It does, however, have a connection to something else - the 4th Piano Concerto in G major, op. 58.

Beethoven personally performed his 4th Piano Concerto at the concert. In the piece, we can hear bits of the 5th Symphony. In a way, it's like the two works are having a conversation (albeit, with pieces of discord between them). Perhaps that is the reason why Beethoven performed the works back-to-back (separated by an intermission) during that famous 1808 concert.

Although the evening was a success, Beethoven never played the piano, with an orchestra, in public again.

* (See *Beethoven, the Man and the Artist: As Revealed in His Own Words*, By Ludwig van Beethoven, Compiled and annotated by Friedrich Kerst; Translated into English, and edited with additional notes, by Henry Edward Krehbiel, page 73.)

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/COMPOSING-SYMPHONIES-Beethoven>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

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Media Stream

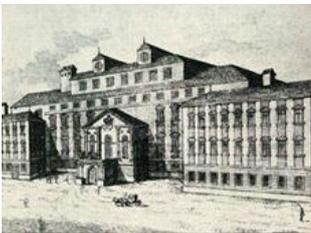


Beethoven Patron - Karl Lichnowsky

Image of Prince Karl Alois Lichnowsky, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

Quoted passages from Peter Clive, *Beethoven and His World: A Biographical Dictionary*, pages 203-204.

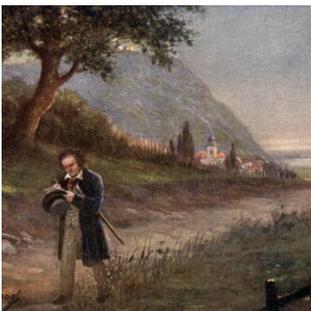
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Theater an der Wien

Image of Theater an der Wien, online courtesy [Theater an der Wien](#).

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COMPOSING SYMPHONIES

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Romantic Rejections

Clip from "Beethoven," a 2005 [BBC television](#) production, featuring [Charles Hazlewood](#) and starring Paul Rhys as Beethoven.

Online, courtesy [BBC Worldwide](#) Channel at YouTube.

Director:

Ursula Macfarlane

Key Cast Members:

Paul Rhys

Ludwig van Beethoven

Jack Shepherd

Joseph Haydn

David Bamber

Prince Lichnowsky

Alice Eve

Countess Giulietta Guicciardi

Nicholas Farrell

Stephan von Breuning

Tom Goodman-Hill

Anton Schindler

Gareth David-Lloyd

Older Karl

Casper Harvey

Young Karl

Sarah Hadland

Johanna van Beethoven

Christian Coulson

Archduke Rudolph

Charles Hazlewood

Himself - Presenter

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Romantic-Rejections>



Composing the Appassionata

Clip from "Beethoven," a 2005 [BBC television](#) production, featuring [Charles Hazlewood](#) and starring Paul Rhys as Beethoven.

Online, courtesy [BBC Worldwide](#) Channel at YouTube.

Director:

Ursula Macfarlane

Key Cast Members:

Paul Rhys

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David Bamber

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Anton Schindler

Gareth David-Lloyd

Older Karl

Casper Harvey

Young Karl

Sarah Hadland

Johanna van Beethoven

Christian Coulson

Archduke Rudolph

Charles Hazlewood

Himself - Presenter

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Composing-the-Appassionata>



Symphony No. 6 in F Major, Op. 68 - Pastoral

Video - Herbert von Karajan conducting the Berlin Philharmonic in its performance of Beethoven's Sixth Symphony. Online, courtesy YouTube.

Quoted passage from *Haydn, Mozart, & Beethoven: Studies in the Music of the Classical Period*, edited by Sieghard Brandenburg, [pg 254](#).

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Symphony-No.-6-in-F-Major-Op.-68-Pastoral>



Beethoven's 4th Piano Concerto and a Modern Tragedy

Video clip, from a 1989 concert, in which Krystian Zimerman performs Beethoven's 4th Piano Concerto with Leonard Bernstein conducting the Wiener Philharmoniker (Vienna Philharmonic).

Quoted passage, on the original performance of the concert, [from Phillip Huscher](#), program annotator for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Beethoven-s-4th-Piano-Concerto-and-a-Modern-Tragedy>



Beethoven - 4th Piano Concerto in G Major, Op. 58 - Last Movement

Clip of Murray Perahia, playing the last movement of Beethoven's 4th Piano Concerto with Sir Colin Davis conducting the New York Philharmonic, online courtesy YouTube.

Quoted passage, online courtesy Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Beethoven-4th-Piano-Concerto-in-G-Major-Op.-58-Last-Movement>



Bernstein Explains Beethoven's Fifth - Part 1

Video clip of Bernstein explaining Beethoven, online via YouTube.

Quoted fan-mail letter, online courtesy [Leonard Bernstein.com](http://LeonardBernstein.com).

All of [Bernstein's historic broadcasts](#) for the Omnibus program were released on DVD in January of 2010.

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Bernstein Explains Beethoven's Fifth - Part 2

Video clip of Bernstein explaining Beethoven, online via YouTube.

Quoted reviews, online courtesy [Leonard Bernstein.com](http://LeonardBernstein.com).

All of [Bernstein's historic broadcasts](#) for the Omnibus program were released on DVD in January of 2010.

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Bernstein Explains Beethoven's Fifth - Part 3

Video clip of Bernstein explaining Beethoven, online via YouTube.

Quoted passages from [the prelude](#) of *Leonard Bernstein: A Biography for Young People*, by David Ewen.

All of [Bernstein's historic broadcasts](#) for the Omnibus program were released on DVD in January of 2010.

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Bernstein Explains Beethoven's Fifth - Part 4

Video clip of Bernstein explaining Beethoven, online courtesy YouTube.

Quoted passages from [the first chapter](#) of *Leonard Bernstein: A Biography for Young People*, by David Ewen.

All of [Bernstein's historic broadcasts](#) for the Omnibus program were released on DVD in January of 2010.

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