

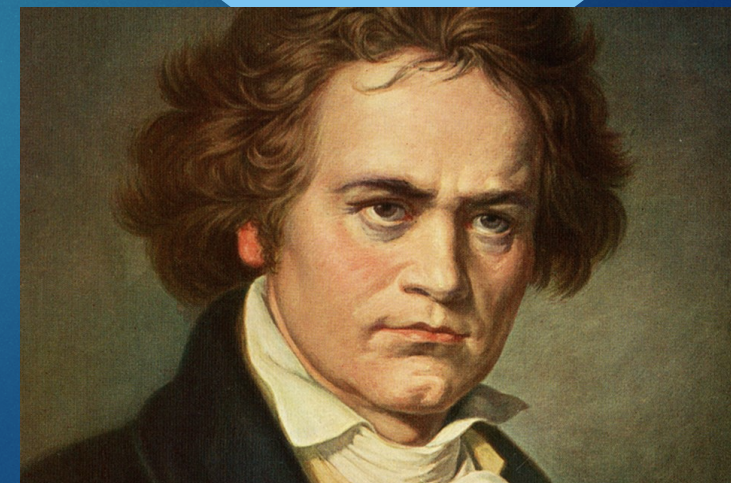


"Artist Lecture Series" | musicologist David Malvinni, Ph.D.

Sound/Stage #5: Beethoven Symphony no. 7

ONLINE PRE-EVENT LECTURE BY
MUSICOLOGIST DAVID MALVINNI, PH.D.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2020



Sound/Stage #5 Program

Episode: “Beethoven Symphony no. 7
in A major, op, 92”

Grand work in four movements:

- ▶ I. *Poco sostenuto – Vivace* (A major) [C and F major]
- ▶ II. *Allegretto* (A minor) [A major]
- ▶ III. *Presto – Assai meno presto* (trio) (F major, Trio in D major)
- ▶ IV. *Allegro con brio* (A major)



Sound/Stage #5 Program

Title: "Beethoven Symphony no. 7 in A major, op.92"

- ▶ Composed in the Bohemian spa town of Teplitz (at the time German speaking)
- ▶ Dedicated to Count Moritz von Fries
- ▶ Premiered at a patriotic benefit concert for the Bavarian soldiers who fought Napoleon at the Battle of Hanau
- ▶ 8 December 1813, alongside *Wellingtons Sieg*; two of his most popular works during his lifetime
- ▶ Known for: 1) long slow intro with harmonic foreshadowing; 2) haunting ostinato of mvt. 2 *Allegretto*; 3) lack of slow movement; 4) dance-like third and fourth mvts.; 5) exuberant, forceful, vigorous energy, yet tempered by a subtle lyricism throughout



Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

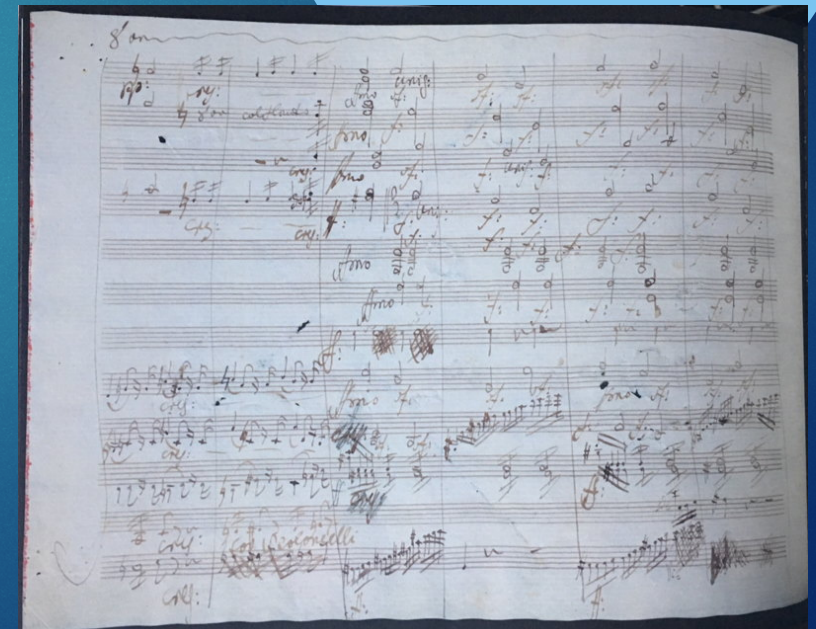
- ▶ Born in Bonn, Germany, died in Vienna, his chosen city
- ▶ Vienna the center of the musical universe; came there to study with Mozart, took some lessons with Haydn and Salieri
- ▶ Favorite of the aristocracy, yet rebelled against aristocracy throughout his life; Archduke Rudolph; Prince Kinsky, and Prince Lobkowitz
- ▶ Never married; social barriers, always falling for aristocratic women; helped raise his nephew Karl
- ▶ Essential works in following genres: piano sonata, violin sonata, string quartet, violin concerto, piano concerto, and symphony



What to listen for

Rhythmic energy + Emotional Journey

- ▶ 1) long slow intro with harmonic foreshadowing;
- ▶ 2) Transition from slow intro to Vivace in the first movement, subtle rhythm on a single note;
- ▶ 3) precise use of rhythmic effect; close attention to rhythmic detail in generating the musical meaning
- ▶ 2) Movement 2: opens with a question; additive texture in build up; how to interpret? Unifying rhythm (ostinato); Often thought to be mournful; huge textural arc;
- ▶ 3) lack of slow movement; instead a Presto with Pilgrims march (assai meno)
- ▶ 4) Overall: exuberant, forceful, vigorous energy, yet tempered with a subtle lyricism throughout
- ▶ 5) Big orchestral sound, full woodwinds and trumpets and timpani
- ▶ 6) Dudamel: fabulous interpreter of Beethoven



Further exploration

- ▶ Compare the literally hundreds of recordings of this piece!
- ▶ Types: 1) early pioneers; 2) classic conductors; 3) early music authentic versions
- ▶ YouTube—has videos of Bernstein, Kleiber, Barenboim, and a recent one of the Concertgebouw Orchestra
- ▶ Access my Beethoven Favorite playlist on Spotify (free):

<http://bit.ly/Beethoven-Malvinni>

