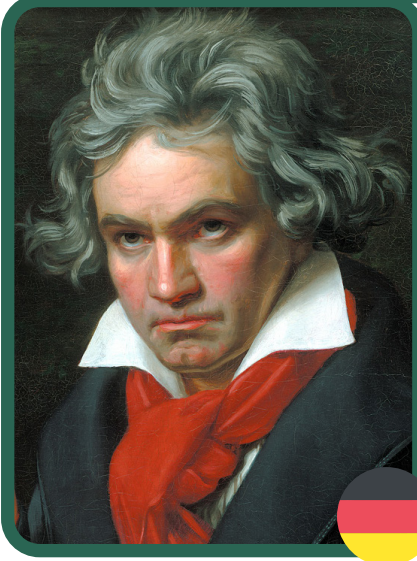




## COMPOSER BIOGRAPHY

**LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN**

BORN: December 1770

ERA/STYLE: Classical-Romantic

DIED: March 26, 1827

HOMETOWN: Bonn, Germany

Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany. His father and grandfather were both musicians. Beethoven started lessons in piano, violin, and composition with his father when he was 4 years old.



Later in his life, Beethoven moved to Vienna, Austria. There he was able to meet some of the finest musicians of his day, and to play his music

for them. This was a happy time for him, and he had great success. Beethoven loved nature, and he spent many holidays in the park where he took long walks. Sometimes, he saw things outdoors that inspired him to write music. His music was also influenced by literature, history and politics, and his own personal experiences.

Beethoven started to lose his hearing when he was about 30 years old. This meant that he could not give concerts anymore, but he did keep writing music. In fact, some of his most famous pieces were written after he lost his hearing.

Beethoven became known as one of the greatest pianists of his day, and is considered one of the greatest composers in history. He played an important role in the development of classical music as a whole, and music for the piano in particular.