



Ludwig van Beethoven 1770-1827

Baby Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany. He had a very tough dad who would force him to practice the piano for hours and hours everyday.

Luckily, when Beethoven turned sixteen, he took a trip to Vienna and played for the famous Mozart. Mozart really liked Beethoven's piano playing and sent Beethoven to his friend Mr. Haydn.

Mr. Haydn, another famous composer gave Beethoven music lessons. While studying with Mr Haydn, Beethoven discovered that his REAL talent was to compose music, not play the piano.

While in Vienna the classical style of music he inherited from Haydn and Mozart was giving way to something more exciting and expressive: the style of Romantic Music. Beethoven's music was intensely dramatic and emotional. He used powerful driving rhythms and he would build a huge orchestral piece from one tiny musical idea.

Beethoven composed nine symphonies for large orchestras, an opera, five piano concertos, 64 pieces for piano, and 15 string quartets. (The quartet So Said Gwen plays is number 3)

Beethoven sadly began to lose his hearing at age 26. He became very angry and did not have many friends. Though his life was unhappy, Beethoven still managed to write some of the most famous classical music that we still play today.