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Beethoven, Ludwig van

Douglas Johnson, Scott G. Burnham, William Dodin, Joseph Kanman and Alan Tyson

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Ludwig van Beethoven, bap. Dec 17, 1756, of Vienna; d. Mar 26, 1827, German composer. His early achievements, as composer and performer, show him to be among the greatest of the Viennese Classical to aiming that he had inherited from Gluck and Haydn. As personal affinities—depth, and the ability to write him happy personal relationships—promised large, he began to compose in an increasingly individual musical style. At the end of his life he wrote his most sublime and profound works. From his success at overwhelming traditions and explorations and personal expression, he seemed to be regarded as the dominant musical figure of the 19th century, and searingly any significant composer since his time has except his influence or failed to acknowledge it. For the respect his works have commanded of musicians, and the popularly they have enjoyed among wider audiences, he is probably the most admired composer in the history of Western music.

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