

## Montgomery Philharmonic 2014 - 2015 Concert Season – SINGULARITY

### Ludwig van Beethoven – He Changed the World – October 12, 2014

#### About Ludwig van Beethoven –

Ludwig van Beethoven was a German composer and pianist. A crucial figure in the transition between the Classical and Romantic eras in Western art music, Beethoven remains one of the most famous and influential of all composers. He began his professional study as a pianist in 1779 in Bonn with Christian Gottlob Neefe, a court-appointed organist who also taught him composition. Beethoven's first job was working as Neefe's assistant, and during this time, his first works were published—a set of piano variations and three sonatas. Soon afterward, Beethoven moved to Vienna, intending to study with Haydn. It is not clear how long he actually studied with Neefe, but he did study counterpoint with Haydn. At the same time, Beethoven established himself as a piano virtuoso and violinist.

In the early 1800's, Beethoven began to write symphonies, chamber music, and piano sonatas, and he also accepted piano students. The first signs of tinnitus began to appear at this time, and by 1811 he was having great difficulty playing his own work, the *Emperor Concerto*; by 1814 he was completely deaf. Beethoven's deafness has been attributed to lead poisoning. He kept his wine in a ceramic container that had a lead-based glaze, and a recent analysis of a few strands of his hair found that it had abnormally high levels of lead. Beethoven's last period of composition began in 1815. At this point, he became an innovator in various forms of composition and his music had a striking intellectual depth and intensity of expression.

- **Born:** December 16, 1770, in Bonn, Germany
- **Died:** March 26, 1827, in Vienna, Austria
- **Full Name:** Ludwig van Beethoven
- **Compositions:** 9 symphonies, 7 concerti, 1 opera, 1 ballet, numerous works for piano including 32 piano sonatas, 16 string quartets, and dozens of other chamber music works
- **Parents:** Maria Magdalena Keverich, Johann van Beethoven
- **Siblings:** Kaspar Anton Karl van Beethoven, Nikolaus Johann van Beethoven, Ludwig Maria van Beethoven

Ovt, Creatures of Prometheus, opus 43

Two Marches for Military Band, WoO 18 & 19

March for Military Band, WoO 24

Symphony No. 2

#### *Two Marches and Trio for Military Band, WoO 18 & 19 (1808)*

Beethoven wrote five military marches during his lifetime. These marches were used to entertain and rally the German army much the same as was happening in England, where its military bands were playing marches. WoO stands for *Werke ohne Opuszahl* ("works without opus number"); this designation was used in the catalogue published by George Kinsky and Hans Halm in 1955 to refer to 205 of Beethoven's pieces that were unpublished, and did not, therefore, have opus numbers. Beethoven wrote eight pieces for military band. These pieces were not limited to marches, but included serenades, scherzos, and ecossaises as well.

Beethoven wrote marches WoO 18 and 19 for Archduke Anton while he was on summer holiday in Baden. March 18, nicknamed the "York" march, was premiered at a tournament honoring Empress Maria Ludovika's birthday. March 19, although also written in 1810, was not published until well after Beethoven's death because, needing money, he added a trio to this march in 1822 so that it would appear to be a new piece. Beethoven made several attempts to package and sell Marches 18, 19, and 20 to publishers. C.F. Peters, for instance, asked to take a look at the works but found them to be inferior, so Beethoven was unsuccessful and the marches were not published until long after he had died.

**Instrumentation** – piccolo, 2 flutes, 2 clarinets in Bb, 2 bassoons, contrabassoon, 2 trumpets in C, 2 horns in F, 2 trumpets in F, snare drum, bass drum

#### Artifact –

Full score of Military March WoO 18 – 19



1. Beethoven - Herbert von Karajan

2. Beethoven: Egmont Incidental Music; Wellington's Victory; Military Marches - Berlin Philharmonic Wind Ensemble, Berlin Philharmonic & Herbert von Karajan

3. Beethoven: Egmont Incidental Music; Wellington's Victory; Military Marches - Berlin Philharmonic Wind Ensemble, Berlin Philharmonic & Herbert von Karajan

4. Beethoven: Wind Music (Complete Beethoven Edition Vol. 15) - Bläser der Berliner Philharmoniker, Netherlands Wind Ensemble & The Philip Jones Brass Ensemble



1. Beethoven: Egmont (Complete Incidental Music) / Wellington's Victory / Military Marches

2. Beethoven: Anguish and Triumph

3. Conversations with Beethoven (NYRB Classics)

#### YouTube Video Links –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFMRbABLMQo>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMaY\\_uUhXH0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMaY_uUhXH0)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpAdoxR6Cic>