

Born in 1770 in Bonn, Germany, Ludwig van Beethoven started playing the piano before he was four years old. Clearly gifted, he _____ his first piece of music by the time he was twelve. Beethoven proved to be both a gifted pianist and an imaginative composer. He _____ not only for his great genius, but also for his strong and difficult personality. During concerts, if people talked while he _____, he would stop and walk out. Despite this type of behaviour, many in musical and aristocratic circles _____ Beethoven, and music lovers were always Beethoven's greatest supporters. The most tragic aspect of Beethoven's life was his gradual loss of hearing. However, even as his hearing grew worse, his creative activity remained intense, and audiences _____ by his music. In 1826, Beethoven _____ his last public performance of his famous "Ninth Symphony". By this time, the composer was completely deaf. Beethoven _____ in Vienna at the age of fifty-seven. And millions of people all over the world _____ his music ever since.