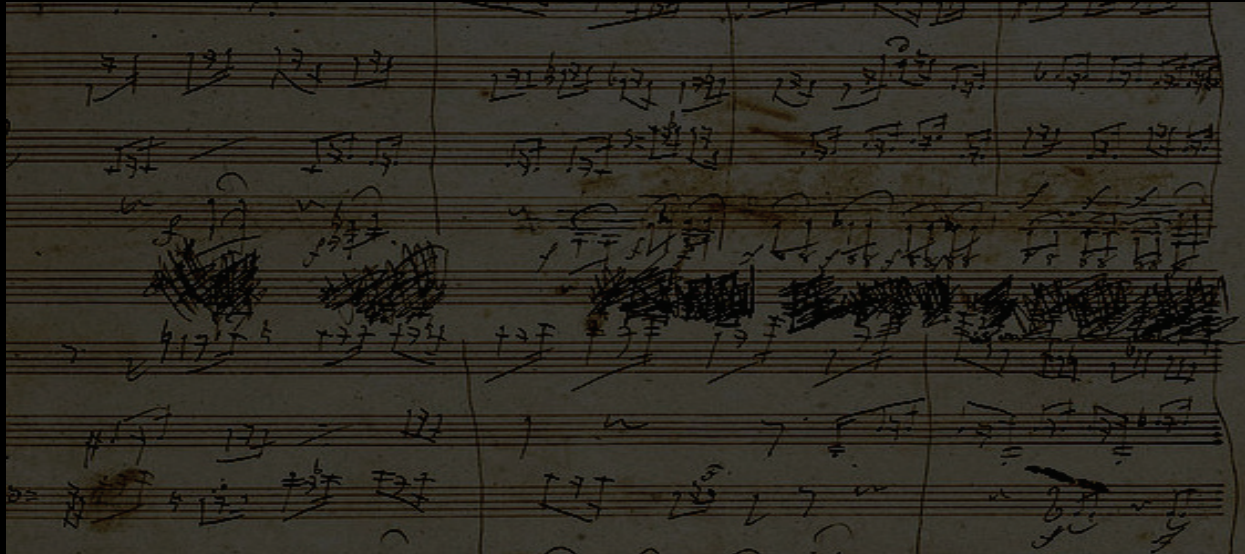
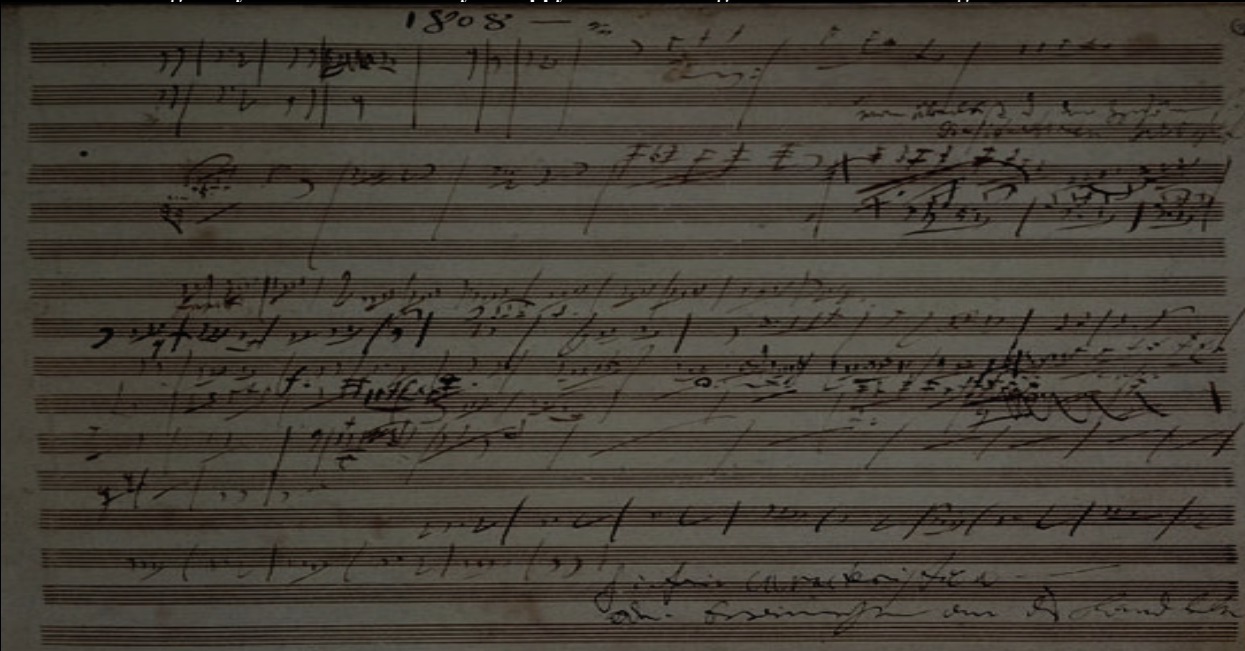


# LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

1770 - 1827



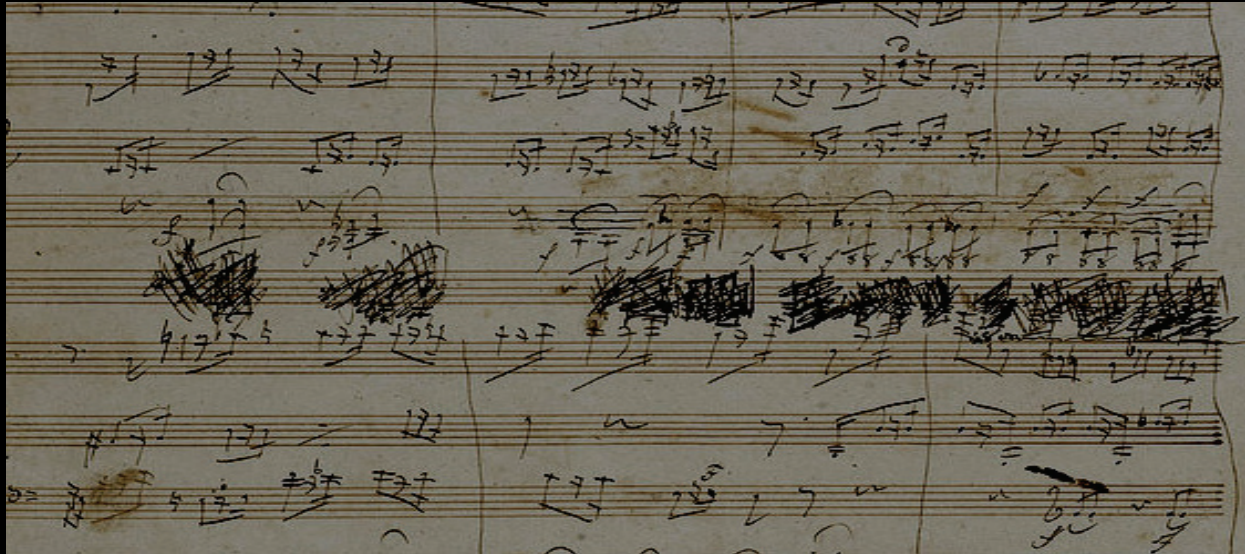
O you men who think or say that I am malevolent stubborn or misanthropic: How greatly do you wrong me: You do not know the secret causes of my seeming: From childhood my heart and mind were disposed to the gentle feelings of good will: I was even ever eager to accomplish great deeds but reflect now that for six years I have been a hopeless case aggravated by senseless physicians: Cheated year after year in the hope of improvement: Finally compelled to face the prospect of a lasting malady whose cure will take years or perhaps be impossible: Born with an ardent and lively temperament even susceptible to the diversions of society: I was compelled early to isolate myself: To live in loneliness when I at times tried to forget all this: O how harshly was I repulsed by the doubly sad experience of my bad hearing and yet it was impossible for me to say to men speak louder: Shout: For I am deaf. Ah how could I possibly admit such an infirmity in the one sense which should have been more perfect in me than in others: A sense which I once possessed in highest perfection: A perfection such as few surely in my profession enjoy or have enjoyed: O I cannot do it therefore forgive me when you see me draw back when I would gladly mingle with you: My misfortune is doubly painful because it must lead to my being misunderstood: For me there can be no recreations in society of my fellows: Refined intercourse: Mutual exchange of thought: Only just as little as the greatest needs command disposition: Although I sometimes ran counter to it yielding to my inclination for society but what a humiliation when one stood beside me and heard a flute in the distance and I heard nothing or someone heard the shepherd singing and again I heard nothing: Such incidents brought me to the verge of despair: But little more and I would have put an end to my life: Only art it was that withheld me: It seemed impossible to leave the world until I had produced all that I felt called upon me to produce: And so I endured this wretched existence: Truly wretched: An excitable body which a sudden change can throw from the best into the worst state: Patience it is said that I must now choose for my guide: I have done so: I hope my determination will remain firm to endure until it please the inexorable parcae to break the thread: Perhaps I shall get better: Perhaps not: I am prepared: Forced already in my 28th year to become a philosopher: O it is not easy: Less easy for the artist than for anyone else: Divine One thou lookest into my inmost soul: Thou knowest it: Thou knowest that love of man and desire to do good live therein: O men: When some day you read these words reflect that you did me wrong and let the unfortunate one comfort himself and find one of his kind who despite all obstacles of nature yet did all that was in his power to be accepted among worthy artists and men: With joy I hasten towards death: If it comes before I shall have had an opportunity to show all my artistic capacities it will still come too early for me despite my hard fate and I shall probably wish it had come later: But even then I am satisfied: Will it not free me from my state of endless suffering? Come when thou will I shall meet thee bravely: Farewell and do not wholly forget me when I am dead: I deserve this of you in having often in life thought of you and how to make you happy: Be so: Ludwig van Beethoven: Heiligenstadt: October 6<sup>th</sup>. 1802:



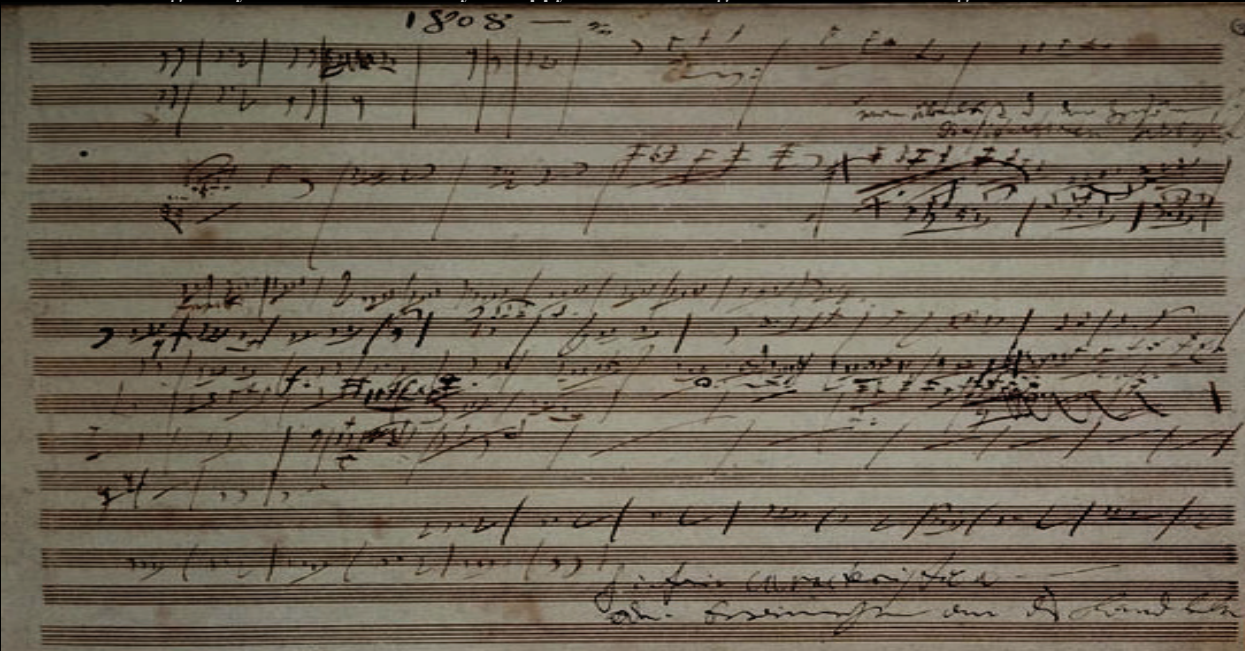


# LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

1770 - 1827



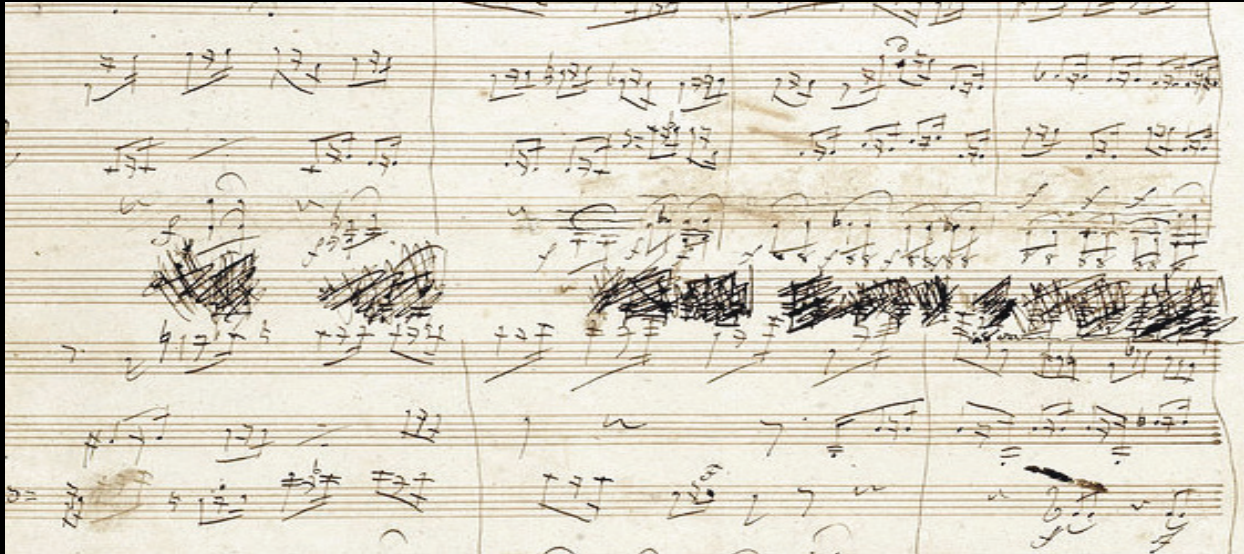
O you men who think or say that I am malevolent stubborn or misanthropic: How greatly do you wrong me: You do not know the secret causes of my seeming: From childhood my heart and mind were disposed to the gentle feelings of good will: I was even ever eager to accomplish great deeds but reflect now that for six years I have been a hopeless case aggravated by senseless physicians: Cheated year after year in the hope of improvement: Finally compelled to face the prospect of a lasting malady whose cure will take years or perhaps be impossible: Born with an ardent and lively temperament even susceptible to the diversions of society: I was compelled early to isolate myself: To live in loneliness when I at times tried to forget all this: O how harshly was I repulsed by the doubly sad experience of my bad hearing and yet it was impossible for me to say to men speak louder: Shout: For I am deaf. Ah how could I possibly admit such an infirmity in the one sense which should have been more perfect in me than in others: A sense which I once possessed in highest perfection: A perfection such as few surely in my profession enjoy or have enjoyed: O I cannot do it therefore forgive me when you see me draw back when I would gladly mingle with you: My misfortune is doubly painful because it must lead to my being misunderstood: For me there can be no recreations in society of my fellows: Refined intercourse: Mutual exchange of thought: Only just as little as the greatest needs command disposition: Although I sometimes ran counter to it yielding to my inclination for society but what a humiliation when one stood beside me and heard a flute in the distance and I heard nothing or someone heard the shepherd singing and again I heard nothing: Such incidents brought me to the verge of despair: But little more and I would have put an end to my life: Only art it was that withheld me: It seemed impossible to leave the world until I had produced all that I felt called upon me to produce: And so I endured this wretched existence: Truly wretched: An excitable body which a sudden change can throw from the best into the worst state: Patience it is said that I must now choose for my guide: I have done so: I hope my determination will remain firm to endure until it please the inexorable parcae to break the thread: Perhaps I shall get better: Perhaps not: I am prepared: Forced already in my 28th year to become a philosopher: O it is not easy: Less easy for the artist than for anyone else: Divine One thou lookest into my inmost soul: Thou knowest it: Thou knowest that love of man and desire to do good live therein: O men: When some day you read these words reflect that you did me wrong and let the unfortunate one comfort himself and find one of his kind who despite all obstacles of nature yet did all that was in his power to be accepted among worthy artists and men: With joy I hasten towards death: If it comes before I shall have had an opportunity to show all my artistic capacities it will still come too early for me despite my hard fate and I shall probably wish it had come later: But even then I am satisfied: Will it not free me from my state of endless suffering? Come when thou will I shall meet thee bravely: Farewell and do not wholly forget me when I am dead: I deserve this of you in having often in life thought of you and how to make you happy: Be so: Ludwig van Beethoven: Heiligenstadt: October 6<sup>th</sup>. 1802:



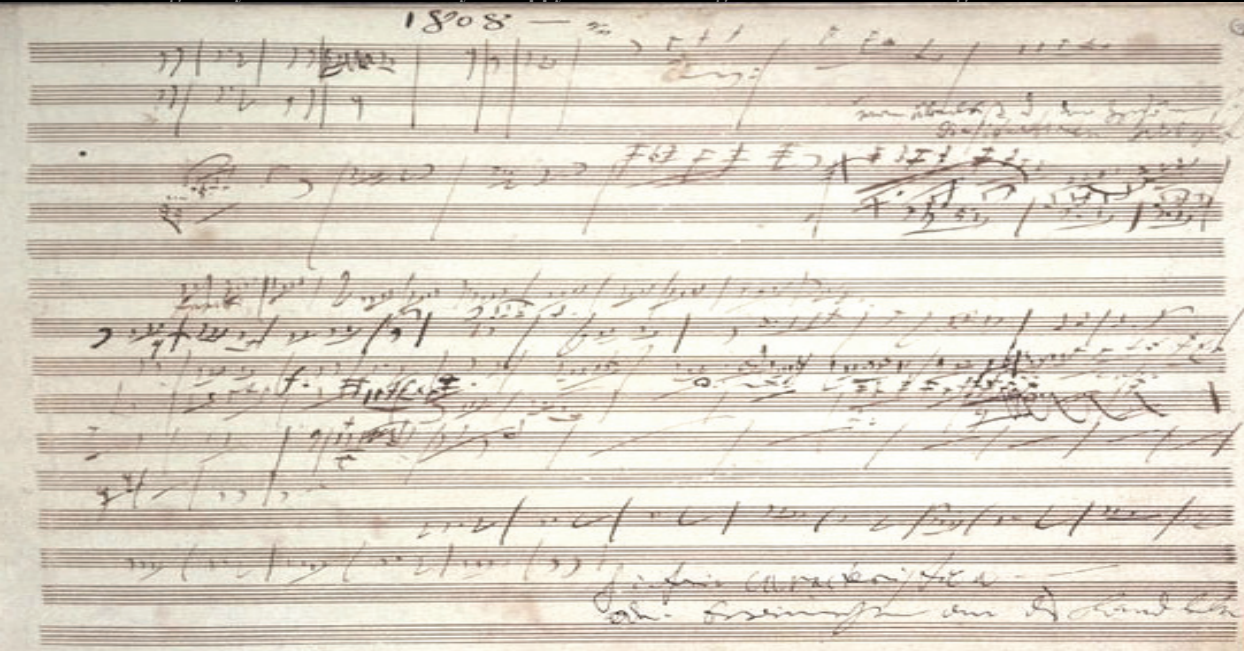


# LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

1770 - 1827



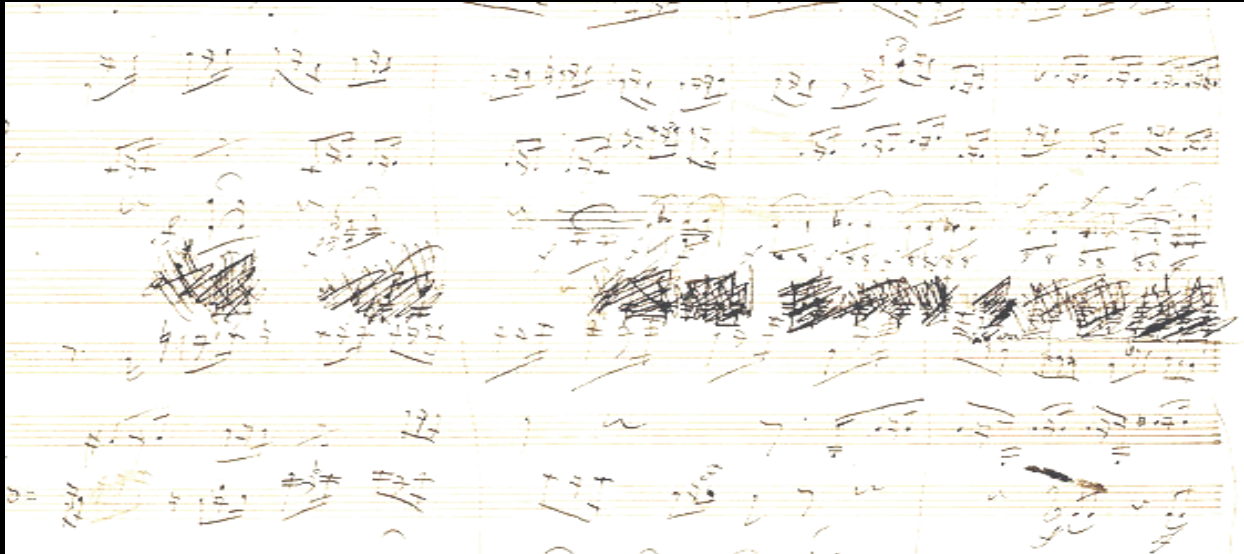
O you men who think or say that I am malevolent stubborn or misanthropic: How greatly do you wrong me: You do not know the secret causes of my seeming: From childhood my heart and mind were disposed to the gentle feelings of good will: I was even ever eager to accomplish great deeds but reflect now that for six years I have been a hopeless case aggravated by senseless physicians: Cheated year after year in the hope of improvement: Finally compelled to face the prospect of a lasting malady whose cure will take years or perhaps be impossible: Born with an ardent and lively temperament even susceptible to the diversions of society: I was compelled early to isolate myself: To live in loneliness when I at times tried to forget all this: O how harshly was I repulsed by the doubly sad experience of my bad hearing and yet it was impossible for me to say to men speak louder: Shout: For I am deaf. Ah how could I possibly admit such an infirmity in the one sense which should have been more perfect in me than in others: A sense which I once possessed in highest perfection: A perfection such as few surely in my profession enjoy or have enjoyed: O I cannot do it therefore forgive me when you see me draw back when I would gladly mingle with you: My misfortune is doubly painful because it must lead to my being misunderstood: For me there can be no recreations in society of my fellows: Refined intercourse: Mutual exchange of thought: Only just as little as the greatest needs command disposition: Although I sometimes ran counter to it yielding to my inclination for society but what a humiliation when one stood beside me and heard a flute in the distance and I heard nothing or someone heard the shepherd singing and again I heard nothing: Such incidents brought me to the verge of despair: But little more and I would have put an end to my life: Only art it was that withheld me: It seemed impossible to leave the world until I had produced all that I felt called upon me to produce: And so I endured this wretched existence: Truly wretched: An excitable body which a sudden change can throw from the best into the worst state: Patience it is said that I must now choose for my guide: I have done so: I hope my determination will remain firm to endure until it please the inexorable parcae to break the thread: Perhaps I shall get better: Perhaps not: I am prepared: Forced already in my 28th year to become a philosopher: O it is not easy: Less easy for the artist than for anyone else: Divine One thou lookest into my inmost soul: Thou knowest it: Thou knowest that love of man and desire to do good live therein: O men: When some day you read these words reflect that you did me wrong and let the unfortunate one comfort himself and find one of his kind who despite all obstacles of nature yet did all that was in his power to be accepted among worthy artists and men: With joy I hasten towards death: If it comes before I shall have had an opportunity to show all my artistic capacities it will still come too early for me despite my hard fate and I shall probably wish it had come later: But even then I am satisfied: Will it not free me from my state of endless suffering? Come when thou will I shall meet thee bravely: Farewell and do not wholly forget me when I am dead: I deserve this of you in having often in life thought of you and how to make you happy: Be so: Ludwig van Beethoven: Heiligenstadt: October 6<sup>th</sup>. 1802:



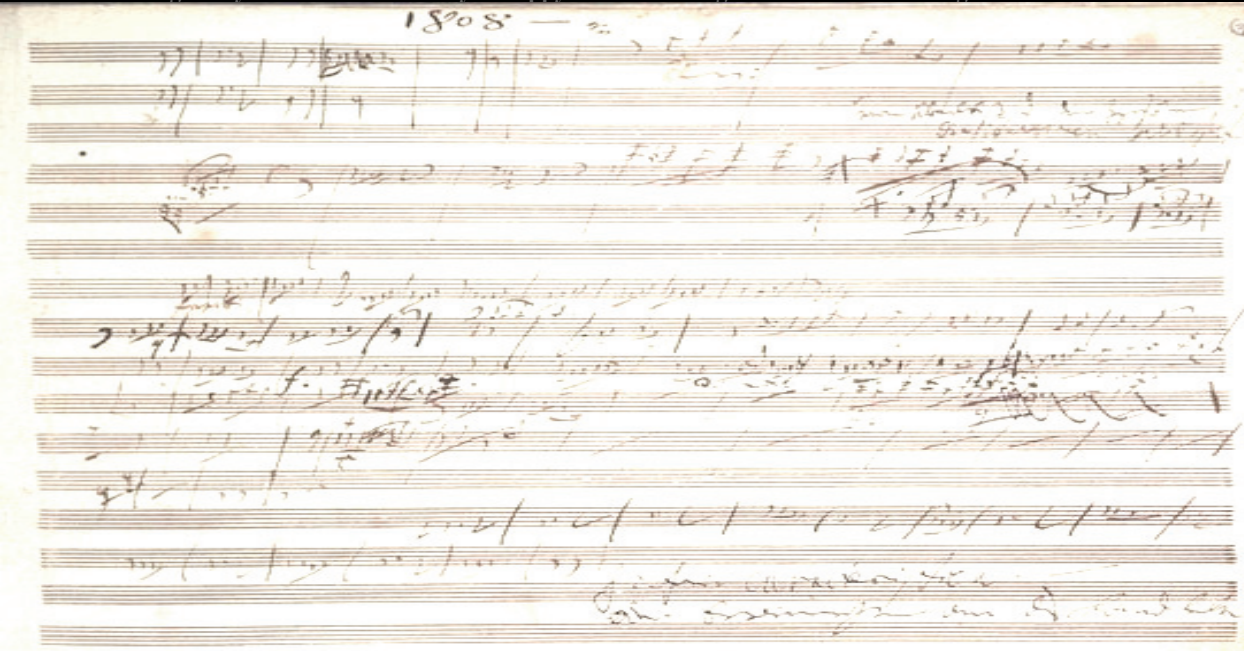


# LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

1770 - 1827

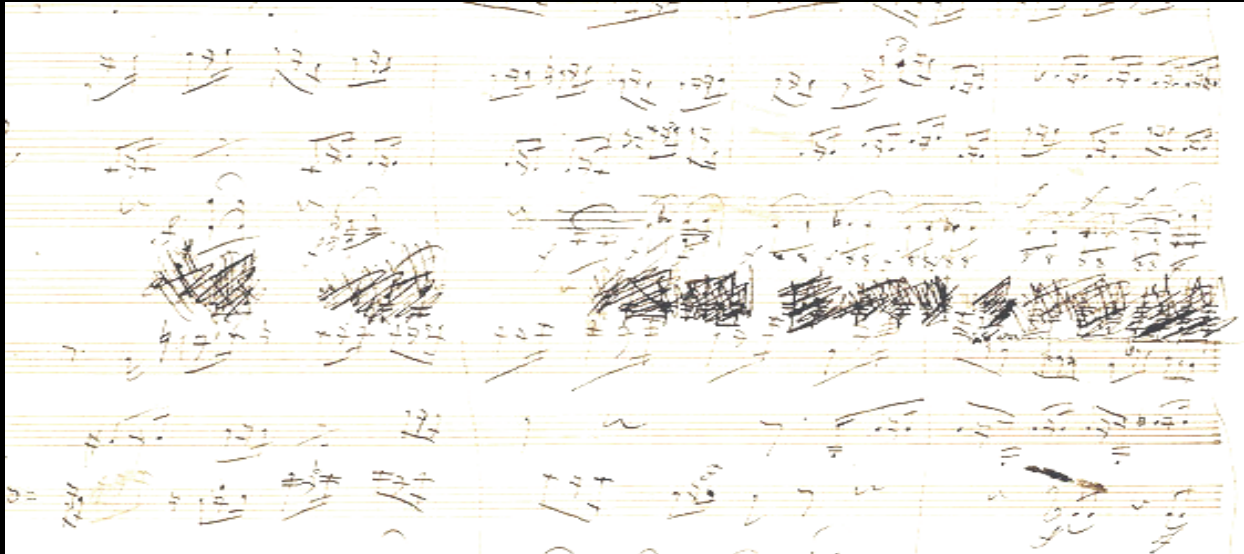


O you men who think or say that I am malevolent stubborn or misanthropic: How greatly do you wrong me: You do not know the secret causes of my seeming: From childhood my heart and mind were disposed to the gentle feelings of good will: I was even ever eager to accomplish great deeds but reflect now that for six years I have been a hopeless case aggravated by senseless physicians: Cheated year after year in the hope of improvement: Finally compelled to face the prospect of a lasting malady whose cure will take years or perhaps be impossible: Born with an ardent and lively temperament even susceptible to the diversions of society: I was compelled early to isolate myself: To live in loneliness when I at times tried to forget all this: O how harshly was I repulsed by the doubly sad experience of my bad hearing and yet it was impossible for me to say to men speak louder: Shout: For I am deaf. Ah how could I possibly admit such an infirmity in the one sense which should have been more perfect in me than in others: A sense which I once possessed in highest perfection: A perfection such as few surely in my profession enjoy or have enjoyed: O I cannot do it therefore forgive me when you see me draw back when I would gladly mingle with you: My misfortune is doubly painful because it must lead to my being misunderstood: For me there can be no recreations in society of my fellows: Refined intercourse: Mutual exchange of thought: Only just as little as the greatest needs command disposition: Although I sometimes ran counter to it yielding to my inclination for society but what a humiliation when one stood beside me and heard a flute in the distance and I heard nothing or someone heard the shepherd singing and again I heard nothing: Such incidents brought me to the verge of despair: But little more and I would have put an end to my life: Only art it was that withheld me: It seemed impossible to leave the world until I had produced all that I felt called upon me to produce: And so I endured this wretched existence: Truly wretched: An excitable body which a sudden change can throw from the best into the worst state: Patience it is said that I must now choose for my guide: I have done so: I hope my determination will remain firm to endure until it please the inexorable parcae to break the thread: Perhaps I shall get better: Perhaps not: I am prepared: Forced already in my 28th year to become a philosopher: O it is not easy: Less easy for the artist than for anyone else: Divine One thou lookest into my inmost soul: Thou knowest it: Thou knowest that love of man and desire to do good live therein: O men: When some day you read these words reflect that you did me wrong and let the unfortunate one comfort himself and find one of his kind who despite all obstacles of nature yet did all that was in his power to be accepted among worthy artists and men: With joy I hasten towards death: If it comes before I shall have had an opportunity to show all my artistic capacities it will still come too early for me despite my hard fate and I shall probably wish it had come later: But even then I am satisfied: Will it not free me from my state of endless suffering? Come when thou will I shall meet thee bravely: Farewell and do not wholly forget me when I am dead: I deserve this of you in having often in life thought of you and how to make you happy: Be so: Ludwig van Beethoven: Heiligenstadt: October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1802:

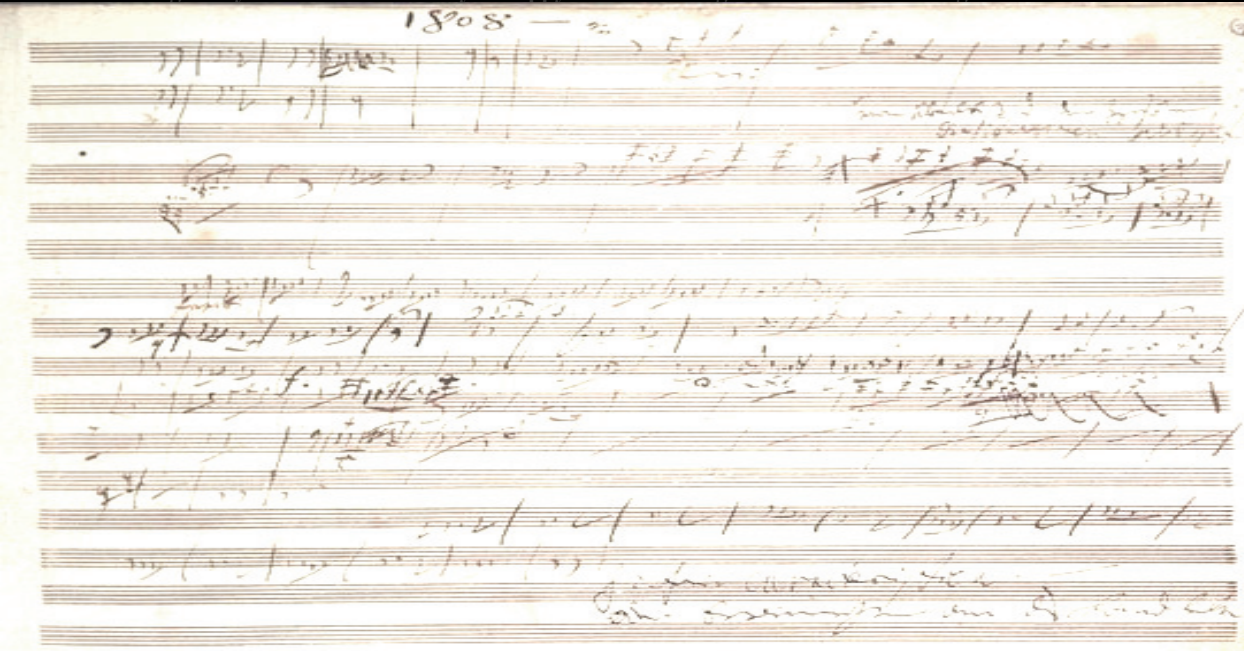


# LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

1770 - 1827



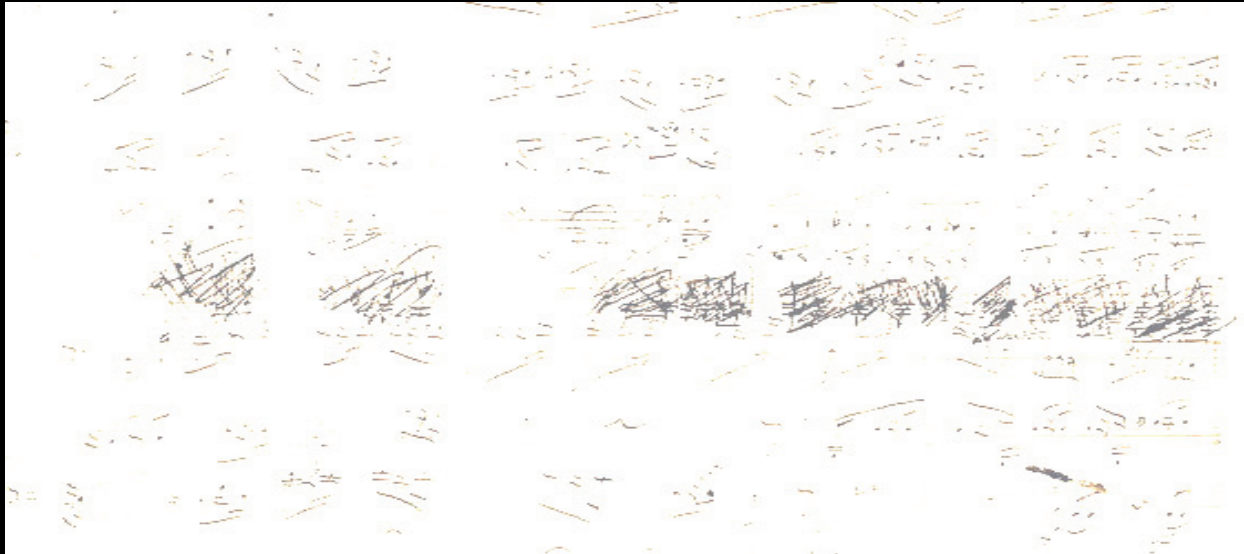
O you men who think or say that I am malevolent stubborn or misanthropic: How greatly do you wrong me: You do not know the secret causes of my seeming: From childhood my heart and mind were disposed to the gentle feelings of good will: I was even ever eager to accomplish great deeds but reflect now that for six years I have been a hopeless case aggravated by senseless physicians: Cheated year after year in the hope of improvement: Finally compelled to face the prospect of a lasting malady whose cure will take years or perhaps be impossible: Born with an ardent and lively temperament even susceptible to the diversions of society: I was compelled early to isolate myself: To live in loneliness when I at times tried to forget all this: O how harshly was I repulsed by the doubly sad experience of my bad hearing and yet it was impossible for me to say to men speak louder: Shout: For I am deaf. Ah how could I possibly admit such an infirmity in the one sense which should have been more perfect in me than in others: A sense which I once possessed in highest perfection: A perfection such as few surely in my profession enjoy or have enjoyed: O I cannot do it therefore forgive me when you see me draw back when I would gladly mingle with you: My misfortune is doubly painful because it must lead to my being misunderstood: For me there can be no recreations in society of my fellows: Refined intercourse: Mutual exchange of thought: Only just as little as the greatest needs command disposition: Although I sometimes ran counter to it yielding to my inclination for society but what a humiliation when one stood beside me and heard a flute in the distance and I heard nothing or someone heard the shepherd singing and again I heard nothing: Such incidents brought me to the verge of despair: But little more and I would have put an end to my life: Only art it was that withheld me: It seemed impossible to leave the world until I had produced all that I felt called upon me to produce: And so I endured this wretched existence: Truly wretched: An excitable body which a sudden change can throw from the best into the worst state: Patience it is said that I must now choose for my guide: I have done so: I hope my determination will remain firm to endure until it please the inexorable parcae to break the thread: Perhaps I shall get better: Perhaps not: I am prepared: Forced already in my 28th year to become a philosopher: O it is not easy: Less easy for the artist than for anyone else: Divine One thou lookest into my inmost soul: Thou knowest it: Thou knowest that love of man and desire to do good live therein: O men: When some day you read these words reflect that you did me wrong and let the unfortunate one comfort himself and find one of his kind who despite all obstacles of nature yet did all that was in his power to be accepted among worthy artists and men: With joy I hasten towards death: If it comes before I shall have had an opportunity to show all my artistic capacities it will still come too early for me despite my hard fate and I shall probably wish it had come later: But even then I am satisfied: Will it not free me from my state of endless suffering? Come when thou will I shall meet thee bravely: Farewell and do not wholly forget me when I am dead: I deserve this of you in having often in life thought of you and how to make you happy: Be so: Ludwig van Beethoven: Heiligenstadt: October 6<sup>th</sup>. 1802:



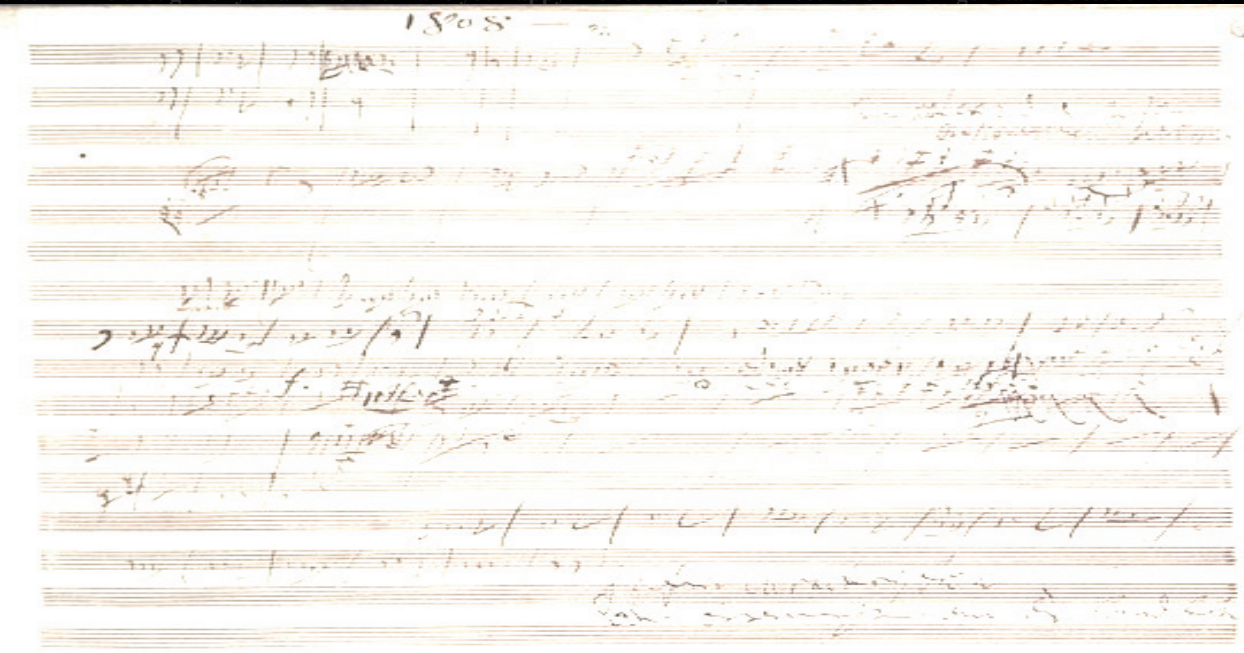


# LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

1770 - 1827



O you men who think or say that I am malevolent stubborn or misanthropic: How greatly do you wrong me: You do not know the secret causes of my seeming: From childhood my heart and mind were disposed to the gentle feelings of good will: I was even ever eager to accomplish great deeds but reflect now that for six years I have been a hopeless case aggravated by senseless physicians: Cheated year after year in the hope of improvement: Finally compelled to face the prospect of a lasting malady whose cure will take years or perhaps be impossible: Born with an ardent and lively temperament even susceptible to the diversions of society: I was compelled early to isolate myself: To live in loneliness when I at times tried to forget all this: O how harshly was I repulsed by the doubly sad experience of my bad hearing and yet it was impossible for me to say to men speak louder: Shout: For I am deaf. Ah how could I possibly admit such an infirmity in the one sense which should have been more perfect in me than in others: A sense which I once possessed in highest perfection: A perfection such as few surely in my profession enjoy or have enjoyed: O I cannot do it therefore forgive me when you see me draw back when I would gladly mingle with you: My misfortune is doubly painful because it must lead to my being misunderstood: For me there can be no recreations in society of my fellows: Refined intercourse: Mutual exchange of thought: Only just as little as the greatest needs command disposition: Although I sometimes ran counter to it yielding to my inclination for society but what a humiliation when one stood beside me and heard a flute in the distance and I heard nothing or someone heard the shepherd singing and again I heard nothing: Such incidents brought me to the verge of despair: But little more and I would have put an end to my life: Only art it was that withheld me: It seemed impossible to leave the world until I had produced all that I felt called upon me to produce: And so I endured this wretched existence: Truly wretched: An excitable body which a sudden change can throw from the best into the worst state: Patience it is said that I must now choose for my guide: I have done so: I hope my determination will remain firm to endure until it please the inexorable parcae to break the thread: Perhaps I shall get better: Perhaps not: I am prepared: Forced already in my 28th year to become a philosopher: O it is not easy: Less easy for the artist than for anyone else: Divine One thou lookest into my inmost soul: Thou knowest it: Thou knowest that love of man and desire to do good live therein: O men: When some day you read these words reflect that you did me wrong and let the unfortunate one comfort himself and find one of his kind who despite all obstacles of nature yet did all that was in his power to be accepted among worthy artists and men: With joy I hasten towards death: If it comes before I shall have had an opportunity to show all my artistic capacities it will still come too early for me despite my hard fate and I shall probably wish it had come later: But even then I am satisfied: Will it not free me from my state of endless suffering? Come when thou will I shall meet thee bravely: Farewell and do not wholly forget me when I am dead: I deserve this of you in having often in life thought of you and how to make you happy: Be so: Ludwig van Beethoven: Heiligenstadt: October 6<sup>th</sup>. 1802:

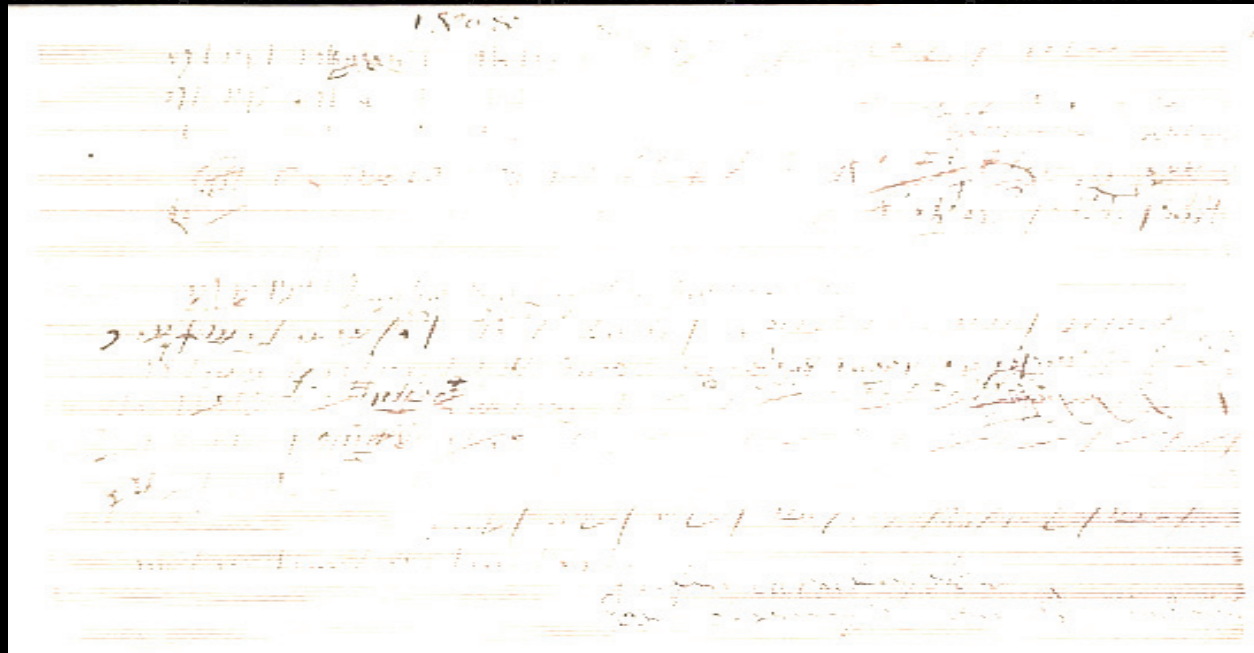


# LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

1770 - 1827



O you men who think or say that I am malevolent stubborn or misanthropic: How greatly do you wrong me: You do not know the secret causes of my seeming: From childhood my heart and mind were disposed to the gentle feelings of good will: I was even ever eager to accomplish great deeds but reflect now that for six years I have been a hopeless case aggravated by senseless physicians: Cheated year after year in the hope of improvement: Finally compelled to face the prospect of a lasting malady whose cure will take years or perhaps be impossible: Born with an ardent and lively temperament even susceptible to the diversions of society: I was compelled early to isolate myself: To live in loneliness when I at times tried to forget all this: O how harshly was I repulsed by the doubly sad experience of my bad hearing and yet it was impossible for me to say to men speak louder: Shout: For I am deaf. Ah how could I possibly admit such an infirmity in the one sense which should have been more perfect in me than in others: A sense which I once possessed in highest perfection: A perfection such as few surely in my profession enjoy or have enjoyed: O I cannot do it therefore forgive me when you see me draw back when I would gladly mingle with you: My misfortune is doubly painful because it must lead to my being misunderstood: For me there can be no recreations in society of my fellows: Refined intercourse: Mutual exchange of thought: Only just as little as the greatest needs command disposition: Although I sometimes ran counter to it yielding to my inclination for society but what a humiliation when one stood beside me and heard a flute in the distance and I heard nothing or someone heard the shepherd singing and again I heard nothing: Such incidents brought me to the verge of despair: But little more and I would have put an end to my life: Only art it was that withheld me: It seemed impossible to leave the world until I had produced all that I felt called upon me to produce: And so I endured this wretched existence: Truly wretched: An excitable body which a sudden change can throw from the best into the worst state: Patience it is said that I must now choose for my guide: I have done so: I hope my determination will remain firm to endure until it please the inexorable parcae to break the thread: Perhaps I shall get better: Perhaps not: I am prepared: Forced already in my 28th year to become a philosopher: O it is not easy: Less easy for the artist than for anyone else: Divine One thou lookest into my inmost soul: Thou knowest it: Thou knowest that love of man and desire to do good live therein: O men: When some day you read these words reflect that you did me wrong and let the unfortunate one comfort himself and find one of his kind who despite all obstacles of nature yet did all that was in his power to be accepted among worthy artists and men: With joy I hasten towards death: If it comes before I shall have had an opportunity to show all my artistic capacities it will still come too early for me despite my hard fate and I shall probably wish it had come later: But even then I am satisfied: Will it not free me from my state of endless suffering? Come when thou will I shall meet thee bravely: Farewell and do not wholly forget me when I am dead: I deserve this of you in having often in life thought of you and how to make you happy: Be so: Ludwig van Beethoven: Heiligenstadt: October 6<sup>th</sup>. 1802:







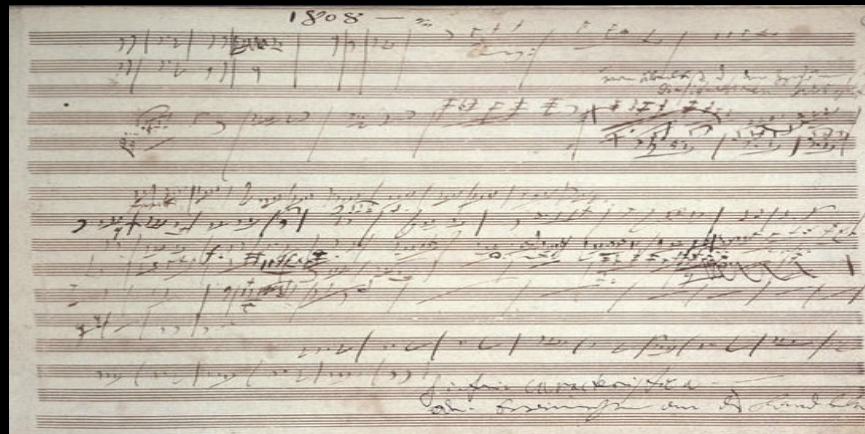


# NOTES:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heiligenstadt\\_Testament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heiligenstadt_Testament)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludwig\\_van\\_Beethoven](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludwig_van_Beethoven)

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/12/05/AR2005120501937\\_2.html?nav=E8](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/12/05/AR2005120501937_2.html?nav=E8)



Sketches for the 'Pastoral' Symphony (no. 6 in F Major, op.68). Ludwig van Beethoven, 1808



# ABSTRACT

O you men who think or say that I am malevolent stubborn or misanthropic: How greatly do you wrong me: You do not know the secret causes of my seeming: From childhood my heart and mind were disposed to the gentle feelings of good will: I was even ever eager to accomplish great deeds but reflect now that for six years I have been a hopeless case aggravated by senseless physicians: Cheated year after year in the hope of improvement: Finally compelled to face the prospect of a lasting malady whose cure will take years or perhaps be impossible: Born with an ardent and lively temperament even susceptible to the diversions of society: I was compelled early to isolate myself: To live in loneliness when I at times tried to forget all this: O how harshly was I repulsed by the doubly sad experience of my bad hearing and yet it was impossible for me to say to men speak louder: Shout: For I am deaf. Ah how could I possibly admit such an infirmity in the one sense which should have been more perfect in me than in others: A sense which I once possessed in highest perfection: A perfection such as few surely in my profession enjoy or have enjoyed: O I cannot do it therefore forgive me when you see me draw back when I would gladly mingle with you: My misfortune is doubly painful because it must lead to my being misunderstood: For me there can be no recreations in society of my fellows: Refined intercourse: Mutual exchange of thought: Only just as little as the greatest needs command disposition: Although I sometimes ran counter to it yielding to my inclination for society but what a humiliation when one stood beside me and heard a flute in the distance and I heard nothing or someone heard the shepherd singing and again I heard nothing: Such incidents brought me to the verge of despair: But little more and I would have put an end to my life: Only art it was that withheld me: It seemed impossible to leave the world until I had produced all that I felt called upon me to produce: And so I endured this wretched existence: Truly wretched: An excitable body which a sudden change can throw from the best into the worst state: Patience it is said that I must now choose for my guide: I have done so: I hope my determination will remain firm to endure until it please the inexorable parcae to break the thread: Perhaps I shall get better: Perhaps not: I am prepared: Forced already in my 28th year to become a philosopher: O it is not easy: Less easy for the artist than for anyone else: Divine One thou lookest into my inmost soul: Thou knowest it: Thou knowest that love of man and desire to do good live therein: O men: When some day you read these words reflect that you did me wrong and let the unfortunate one comfort himself and find one of his kind who despite all obstacles of nature yet did all that was in his power to be accepted among worthy artists and men: With joy I hasten towards death: If it comes before I shall have had an opportunity to show all my artistic capacities it will still come too early for me despite my hard fate and I shall probably wish it had come later: But even then I am satisfied: Will it not free me from my state of endless suffering? Come when thou will I shall meet thee bravely: Farewell and do not wholly forget me when I am dead: I deserve this of you in having often in life thought of you and how to make you happy: Be so: Ludwig van Beethoven: Heiligenstadt: October 6<sup>th</sup>: 1802: