

CALAMITY DAY LESSON #2

6th Grade General Music

INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the following composer story and answer the questions at the ending. You may use a separate piece of notebook paper for the answers if you would like additional room to write. Please make sure that it is labeled clearly with your name and class and stapled to the original answer sheet.

Your answers to the questions will need to be turned in within two weeks of the calamity day and will be factored into your grade.

If you have any questions, you can reach me via e-mail at jconklin@eastwoodschoools.org

Thanks!

Mrs. Conklin 😊



Opening measures of Beethoven's Symphony No. 5

Beethoven discovered he was losing his hearing one day when he realized that he could no longer hear the church bells in town. Luckily, he had never needed to use a keyboard to compose since the melodies were fully formed in his head, so his hearing loss didn't stop his composing. It did, however, make him prone to depression. Most of his symphonies were written

during this time. One of these, Symphony No. 5, begins with perhaps the most famous four notes in all of music. Many people believe that these notes symbolize the knocking of Fate at the door.

After Beethoven became completely deaf, his experimentation in music went beyond what most people of his time could appreciate. He wrote massive works such as his last symphony (No. 9), which call for an oversized orchestra plus choir. Despite his deafness, Beethoven often conducted his own works. He was a sight to see, wildly conducting, sometimes shouting out loud without even knowing it. In his last public performance, he began to cry when someone turned him around so he could see the applause. Even to the end, he was a rebel. Legend has it that on his deathbed, during a terrible thunderstorm, Beethoven shook his fist at heaven before he died. At his funeral, composer Franz Schubert was a torchbearer, and 30,000 people paid their last respects while Mozart's *Requiem* was played. What a contrast to Mozart's burial in a pauper's grave!

FILL IN THE BLANKS _____

Ludwig van Beethoven was a native of _____ but moved to _____ at age 22. He made his living as a _____. Beethoven composed many great works including _____ symphonies, three _____ concertos, six string _____, and many piano _____. Four of the most famous notes in music come from Beethoven's _____. Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 calls for an oversized orchestra plus _____. During his lifetime, Beethoven became completely _____.

BEETHOVEN BEHAVIOR _____

- List four of Beethoven's personality traits. _____

- How did Beethoven's compositional style change after the French Revolution? _____

