

## 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of Beethoven

*Ludwig van Beethoven*, born in Bonn, Germany, on December 16, 1770 was an accomplished composer and pianist during the European classicism period and one of the representatives of the Vienna Classic period. Along with Haydn and Mozart, they were known as the “Three Great Masters of Vienna”.

*Beethoven* lived through the critical era between classical and romantic music. He not only accomplished great achievements in classical music but also paved the path of romantic music. His works had a big influence in the style of later composers, played an important role in the development of world music, and he was revered as a “sage of music.”

*Beethoven's* life was bumpy, lonely, was plagued by both poverty and illness, and he was unmarried throughout his life. He learned piano at the age of 4 and was often maltreated by his alcoholic father; his life was difficult and he lost the right to go to school; his mother died young and he was duty-bound to bear the family affairs; just when his music career was going well and his life prospects seemed to be full of sunshine, fate posed a serious challenge to him: with hearing loss and tinnitus, he became deafer and deafer until his whole world became as silent as death. Fear, melancholy, pain, despair, as well as other sad emotions hit him, throwing him into the depths of darkness. Instead of fading away, he screamed: “I will choke the throat of fate and I must not let fate bring me to my knees”, “music should make the human spirit burst into sparks” — he fought with fate with indomitable perseverance, expressed his ideals, beliefs, and pursuits with musical language, and used it to reveal the unstable situation of the times.

He was only in the world for 57 years but left us with 9 symphonies, including “Eroica”, “Destiny” and “Pastoral”, 32 sonatas, including “Pathétique” and “Moonlight”, as well as other orchestral overtures and concertos, pieces of chamber music and operas such as “Egmont”, “Leonore”, among others. These immortal works are played all around the world and are a treasure trove of timeless music.

He died in Vienna, Austria on March 26, 1827. When the great musician passed away, storms and thunders roared, accompanied by more than 20,000 people to see him off. His tombstone is engraved with: “When you stand in front of his coffin, it is not frustration that surrounds you, but a noble feeling. We can only tell him that he has accomplished a great cause.”

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