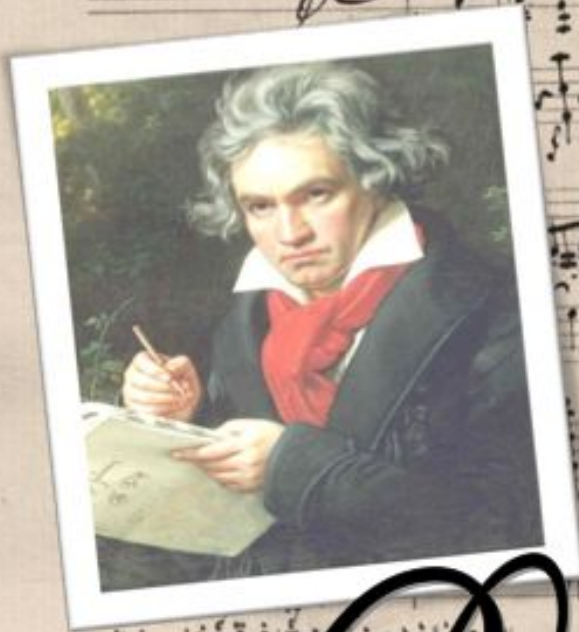


MUSICAL MOTIFS

A Lesson
featuring
Beethoven's
5th Symphony



Beethoven

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Before we listen to the music, let's learn about the composer (the guy who wrote the music).

Read [this biography](#) about Beethoven, then answer the questions on the next page.

Right: Portrait of the 13-year-old Beethoven by an unknown Bonn master (c. 1783). Photo by Unidentified Painted. CC BY SA 3.0.



A MOTIF IS...

- A short melody or rhythm that repeats and varies throughout a piece of music
- A melodic theme that represents a character
- Also called a motive

Let's listen to and watch [this animation](#) of Beethoven's Symphony #5.

The first thing you will hear is this famous motif:



As you listen, notice how the motif changes. It may get higher or lower, faster or slower, louder or softer.

Response to music

Directions: As you are listening to this piece of music, answer the questions.



Which instrument(s) do you hear?

Title:

What is the tempo?



What is the mood?

I wonder _____

I notice _____

What do you like about the piece of music? Why?



Listen again and
complete this
worksheet as
you listen.

Modern Motif

Let's listen to a more recent song with a popular motif!

[The Simpsons Theme Song](#)

Can you count the number of times you hear the main melody in its different forms?



For a really in-depth look at this theme song, check out this article:

[The Simpsons theme tune is an epic symphonic masterpiece – here's exactly why](#)