

Ludwig van Beethoven TEST

name _____

I. LIFE / Multiple Choice

Place the correct answer in the blank:

1. The preposition “van” tells us about Beethoven’s roots? **C**
 1. He was from German royalty
 2. He came from “ordinary” people
 3. His middle name is “van”
 4. His middle name is “from”
2. As a teenager, what was Beethoven able to do for his family? **B**
 1. finish chores as quickly as he could play
 2. support the family financially
 3. buy them a new house
 4. sell his piano to pay bills
3. What relationship did Beethoven have to Mozart and Haydn? **B**
 1. Mozart and Haydn came to all his concerts
 2. Both were his teachers
 3. Both were his good friends
 4. They took lessons from him
4. Beethoven *first* became famous for what musical ability? **A**
 1. playing piano
 2. writing symphonies
 3. playing organ
 4. writing wills
5. Deafness took away Beethoven’s literal ability to hear; how is it that he was able to continue composing? **C**
 1. Doctors created a special device so that he really could hear the notes
 2. He remembered pieces he had already written and wrote them over again
 3. He heard new, beautiful music in his head
 4. He really only composed a few pieces after the deafness set in
6. What is the *Heiligenstadt Testament*? **D**
 1. a German bible
 2. a piece of music
 3. a poem
 4. a will
7. Deafness initially caused Beethoven to suffer great depression; what was his *eventual* reaction? **B**
 1. Eventually, he gave in to depression
 2. Eventually, he overcame his deafness
 3. Eventually, he regained his hearing
 4. Eventually, he gave up composing

II. MUSIC –Fill in the blank

8. Beethoven stunned the world with his **9th** symphony by using a **chorus/choir** in the final movement!
9. Possibly his most famous, Beethoven’s **5th** symphony has a **motif** of four notes which recurs and develops in the first movement.
10. Beethoven wrote **nine** (number) symphonies in all.
11. In Beethoven’s time, a symphony had **four** movements.
12. Some of Beethoven’s notebooks reveal to us that writing music for him was **Very difficult/hard/a struggle**

III. SONATA-ALLEGRO FORM

Write the THREE sections of *Sonata-Allegro* form in the blanks:

Exposition
A

Development
B

Recapitulation
C

Using the letters “A, B, or C” from the blanks, place the correct letter next to its answer:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| the first and second themes “return” to the “head” of the piece | C |
| the themes changed, combined, and used to form a new idea | B |
| can be found in the first movement of most symphonies (this is a trick!) | <i>A, B or C</i> |
| the first and second themes are “placed out” | A |
| in a way, this portion of the <i>Sonata-Allegro</i> form has already been heard! | C |

IV. SHORT ANSWER

BEETHOVEN came on the scene when new and powerful forces were happening in human society. In what ways were the American and French Revolutions going to shape his thinking and influence his music? *Events like the American and French Revolutions were about freedom and new thinking. Beethoven took up these same ideas and applied them to composing music.*

2. Beethoven's piano was different than what had come before. List a keyboard instrument which preceded Beethoven's *piano forte* AND explain TWO advantages that Beethoven now had in this "grown up" piano: *Before the piano forte, Beethoven had the harpsichord, organ, and clavichord on which to play. The "grown up" piano forte which Beethoven had, allowed him to write piano music with more range (higher and lower notes) and sound requirements(dynamic levels). He also had the foot pedals to color his sounds.*

BONUS: What is the literal meaning *piano forte* SOFT LOUD

3. BEETHOVEN used conventions and styles of CLASSICAL PERIOD, but stretched them to their limits...and beyond. DRAW WHAT BEETHOVEN DID TO THE "CONVENTIONS" OF THE CLASSICAL PERIOD.

FO_{RM} **B A L A N C E**

Any picture can be drawn here to represent how Beethoven took the Classical ideas of BALANCE (of phrases), DYNAMICS, TONE PRODUCTION, FORM and "stretched" them to their limits. (you might encourage them to visualize things which stretch and then depict this itself, or the word doing this action).