

2012-11-05

- Mozart - Piano Concerto A Major; pages 227-228-229
- Beethoven (1770-1827) Germany; father solo singer in court; drinking eventually ruined his career; when B. was small, father wanted him to be a child protégé like Mozart. Father and friend would come home late and wake B. at midnight and make him practice until dawn and he cried. He learned piano, violin, viola and organ. Made debut at 6(8); studied composing; was substitute court organist and played harps for operas, and viola in orchestra. Haydn heard B. and said "Come to Vienna". B. went at 17; returned home when mother died. Had to take care of family (father couldn't). Rich widow hired B. to teach piano to her kids; he lived there sometimes and she taught B. literature and introduced to important people. Back to Vienna at 21; studied with Haydn; was most dramatic musician in town; performed and was published and mixed with wealthiest society and aristocrats competed for his friendship. Was short, insignificant looking, pock-marked face, shaggy hair, wrinkled old suits, (in days of elegance). Friend urged B. to clean self up. "As soon as I become a proper gentleman, no one will notice me." He was a "star". In late 20s, heard ringing in ears, blocked other sounds; Doctors = no help. Suggested go to country where is quiet; he did. Wrote Heiligenstadt Testament there = 1/2 half about artistic ideals, 1/2 suicide note. Art won. Some of most popular music composed at this time. Never married; had lost of ladies; after death, letters found to "Immortal Beloved"; was wife of one of his friends; he never sent letters and she didn't know. (Longest relationship 7 months.) Got custody of young nephew and was very controlling - nephew tried suicide. Pneumonia; cirrhosis - 4 operations - no anesthesia, died in lightning storm. 20,000 at funeral.
- Piano sonata - Pathétique - C minor, 1st movement. Slow intro, dotted rhythms 6 notes - repeated at higher pitch levels (question). Tragic and dissonant chords. Allegro = fast and staccato; theme of intro and staccato together.
- Symphony #5 - C minor - 1st movement 4 note motive = "Fate Knocking at the door." Repeated and shorter to one 1 tone.
- Music = 9 symphonies, 32 piano sonatas, 16 string quartets, 5 piano concertos, 1 opera. Used more dissonance and syncopation; triumphant ending. Longer compositions.

Exam = Wed., Nov. 7 = 5:30 p.m. over Renaissance, Baroque and Classical.  
Read for Nov. 12-14 - Romantic Period pages 252-299