

Candidate 8 evidence

Advanced Higher Music	
Candidate name:	
Candidate number:	Centre number:
Title of chosen piece: Symphony no.5, 1 st movement	
Composer of chosen piece: Beethoven	
Analysis	
<p>You must identify key features within your chosen piece by referring to at least five of the elements below:</p>	
◆ style	◆ texture
◆ melody	◆ structure and/or form
◆ harmony	◆ timbre and dynamics
◆ rhythm and tempo	
Youtube link: https://youtu.be/olMPeiqoiic	
<p>Nobody really knows when Beethoven was born although we do know the date of his baptism was on the 17th December 1770. Back then babies were baptised soon after they were born as they often did not live for long so it is likely that Beethoven was born around that time.</p>	
<p>Beethoven's parents had seven children, however only Ludwig, the second child and the two youngest boys survived. Beethoven showed signs of musical talent early on whilst taking piano lessons from his father. He later studied under other local teachers and also learned violin and viola. The very first three compositions he wrote were piano sonatas named "Kurfust" meaning "Elector" and were dedicated to the Elector Maximilian Friedrich. These got his talent noticed.</p>	
<p>In 1787 Beethoven decided to move to Vienna with the speculated hope to study with Mozart. No one is quite sure whether they ever met. Two weeks into his journey, his mother fell ill leaving him with no choice but to return but she died soon after.</p>	
<p>Between 1790–1792, Beethoven composed many works, eventually moving back to Vienna; his first public performance was in 1795 when he performed one of his piano concertos. He went on to begin arranging his first publication of his compositions. He proved a success. His first six string quartets were composed between 1798 and 1800 being published in 1801. They became great hits.</p>	
<p>Beethoven said that his hearing problems and soon his complete deafness came from him getting very angry at being disturbed when he was working. Apparently he got so cross that he fell down and may have had some kind of stroke after which he couldn't hear properly. The true cause is unknown. His autopsy suggests he had distended inner ear. Beethoven died in 1827.</p>	

Advanced Higher Music

Candidate name:

Candidate number:

Centre number:

Title of chosen piece: Symphony no.5, 1st movement

Composer of chosen piece: Beethoven

Analysis

Beethoven wrote his symphony no.5 between 1804 and 1808. The first movement is a complex and interesting opening. Normally in a first movement of a symphony you would expect the structure to be in Sonata form. A sonata form has two musical themes, the first usually loud and forceful; the second is quiet and lyrical. It is common for the beginning of the movement to hear a strong opening theme then leading on to more intricate and melodies taking us to a softer second theme. This section introduces the two melodies. This is the exposition. Further through the first movement usually the themes are developed and varied to make the piece exciting and interesting. This is known as the development section. At the end of the first movement the main themes and idea are introduced, but in slightly different forms, ensuring they are still recognisable. This is called the recapitulation.

In Beethoven's symphony no.5, he does stick to this main idea for a first movement. He begins his first movement with a recurring theme of a four note motif consisting of three quaver notes on the same pitch leading to a fourth minim note lower down. It is played by the clarinet and strings. *Audio ref: 00.00-00.28*

From the beginning, Beethoven is establishing his main rhythmic idea which is clearly heard throughout. Beethoven develops his theme by over-lapping different instruments playing the motif. The opening section ends with a cadence on the dominant. *Audio ref: 00.40-44*

The entire orchestra takes on the motif in unison *Audio ref: 40-48* and heard descending then ascending, this creates a dramatic climax in the music. The upper strings play a set of descending arpeggios still keeping the theme varied but noticeable, in the expected sonata form a first movement usually takes. This leads on and forms a passing on the modulation to a major key, this is done by two chords and pauses played in the woodwind and brass section. *Audio ref: 1.08-1.10*

In the new key, the horns play another variation of the motif in a fanfare like manner; in bar 59 the three quaver notes of the motif are followed by the minim note which is followed by three more minims played *sforzando* with a small *diminuendo* at the end. *Audio ref: 1.10-1.13* This is accompanied by lower strings repeating the opening motif.

Following this, the violins, clarinet and flute have the same idea but expanded with an ascending sequence in the violin part. Again, the lower strings are accompanying with the main theme's four note motif idea. *Audio ref: 1.16-1.18*

Lower strings have a gradual crescendo building up to a climax where a closing theme emerges which starts with a descending scale. *Audio ref: 1.42-1.51*

Advanced Higher Music

Candidate name:

Candidate number:

Centre number:

Title of chosen piece: Symphony no.5, 1st movement

Composer of chosen piece: Beethoven

Analysis

This developed section of the piece begins again with horns and clarinets reiterating the motif with the strings creating a question and answer passage.

In rising sequences, other instruments imitate the first motif. The orchestra leads on to the climax of the development with every instrument strongly playing the basic motif rhythm. *Audio ref: 3.50-3.54*

Beethoven never loses his main theme for a second in this movement and ensures that the main themes of his motifs is not lost and is always apparent in their original or varied forms. Beethoven also uses crescendos and diminuendos to create suspension and tension. The piece ends in C minor.