

ACTIVITY FIVE WORLDWIDE ODE TO JOY

MUSIC PREVIEW TRACKS

19: Symphony No. 9, mvt. 4 - Ludwig van Beethoven

STEP ONE

Listen to Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, then discuss the piece with your class.

- ▶ Do they recognize the piece? Where have they heard it before? Can students sing or demonstrate it?
- ▶ Talk about what music is used for. Is it just entertainment purposes, or can it affect emotions, tell stories, inspire people, change lives?
- ▶ If your students could choose any time of day to listen to this piece, when would they choose? For example: getting ready for school, taking a test, during recess, when they were angry? Why? How would it help?

STEP TWO

This piece has often been used throughout history to bring people together in times of both crisis and celebration. It has been used as a rallying cry in Chilean protests, by prisoners of war during World War I, and by student protesters in Tiananmen Square. It was performed at the fall of the Berlin Wall, and is performed every New Year's Eve in Japan.

- ▶ Watch the first three minutes (or more) of [this video](#) for one extreme example of people coming together to perform Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*.
- ▶ Why do your students think it is performed so often? How does it make them feel? What affect does it have on people in crisis?
- ▶ How can this piece, and music in general, bring people together?

HISTORY EXTENSION

Have your class research and present, either individually or in groups, a historical event during which Beethoven's Ninth (or "Ode to Joy") played an important part.

STANDARDS

AZCCRS 3-8.SL.1, AZCCRS 3-5.SL.4, AZCCRS 5-7.H.4



LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN [1770-1827]

Beethoven (BAY-toh-ven) is widely regarded as one of the greatest composers of all time. While he was gifted with music at a young age, Beethoven was a poor student, and many historians believe he may have been dyslexic. In his late 20s, Beethoven came to a horrific realization - he was going deaf. 10 years later he experienced total hearing loss, and even though it was a struggle, he still composed another six symphonies while completely deaf!