



Chamber Choir Virtual Learning

High School Active Listening

May 20, 2020



High School Chamber Choir
Lesson: May 20, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: students will be able to analyze a piece of music by listening

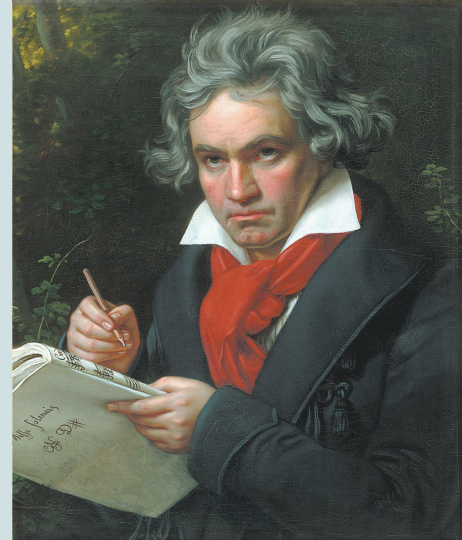
BELL WORK

- Complete the [google form](#)



LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

- 1770-1827
- Born in Germany
- Played piano and violin growing up
- Moved to Vienna in 1792
- Wide range of music composed
 - Symphony
 - Concertos
 - String quartets
 - Piano sonatas
- Began losing his hearing around 1802
 - Kept composing
- His music became increasingly more difficult and intense as his hearing continued to decrease
- Around 1816-1818 he was completely deaf



LETTERS FROM BEETHOVEN

Beethoven wrote a letter to his brothers about going deaf.

Poet, Todd Boss, wrote an adaptation of Heiligenstadt Testament (a city in Germany). These are the words Jake Runestad set to music.

Here is Todd Boss's adaptation and lyrics to Jake Runestad's choral piece.

A Silence Haunts Me

after Beethoven's *Heiligenstadt Testament*

by Todd Boss

Hear me brothers I have a confession painful to
make Six years I have endured a curse that deepens every
day They say that soon I 'll cease to hear the very
music of my soul What should be the sense most perfect
in me fails me shames me taunts me

A silence haunts me They ask me Do you
hear the shepherd singing faroff soft They ask
me Do you hear a distant fluting dancing
joyously aloft No I think so No I think so No
God am I Prometheus exiled in chains for grieving

human kind my fire Take my feeling Take my
sight Take my wings midflight but let me hear
the searing roar of a ir before I score the ground Why Silence
is God's reply and so I beg me take
my life when lo I hear a grace and feel a ringing

in me after all So now as leaves of autumn fall I
make my mark and sign my name and turn again to
touch my flame of music to the world a broken man as best
I can As ever Faithfully Yours A bell A bell
Hear me and be well

JAKE RUNESTAD

- Born 1986
- From Minnesota
- Writes for choir, opera, orchestras, and wind ensembles
- Jake Runestad was asked to write a choir piece and he chose Beethoven's letter as the lyrics.



A SILENCE HAUNTS ME

- As you listen, think of these things:
 - Dissonant chords
 - Showing Beethoven's anger and sadness about going deaf
 - The piano player plays like he is angry
 - Diction of the choir
 - Purposeful silence in the piece
- At the 6:00 minute mark, he is pleading "Let me hear"- the dynamic is louder and there is dissonance



A SILENCE HAUNTS ME

- After this high point in the song, there is an a capella section.
 - Unison
- The text is set to music as if it was being spoken
- The piece ends very soft
 - “Be well”
 - Symbolizing Beethoven going completely deaf

- The conductor continues to conduct the silence at the end of the piece



EXTRA PRACTICE

- What did you notice about the choir's performance?
- How would you describe the piece?
- How was the choir's tone quality and balance?
- Did you notice other musical choices that matched the lyrics
 - Dynamics
 - Articulation
 - Tone Quality

