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SURASAKE TANTIMAKEBUT

what was Ludwig van Beethoven's most important contribution to mankind?

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“Ludwig van Beethoven”, his name sounds very familiar to everyone although he or she is interested in classical music or not, as his works are so famous and popular among all ages of people around the world. Beethoven was a great lonely German pianist and composer. At his age, not so many understand his music style because he added perceptions, feeling, and experiences into the songs and delivered to the audiences through the melody that sometimes not familiar to be in the classical music era, but later he was known as one of the greatest composers that his works were widely known and lasting till the present day. Beethoven's opuses were so valuable and worthy that the new generation musician, composer or any people can realize and study in-depth of the profound meaning hiding in his opuses. Moreover, learning the ways and techniques the great composer composed that great opuses, these implied that his great opuses influenced on mankind a lots, especially his symphony no.3 that was the Beethoven's most important contribution to mankind as it showed the evidences of evolution and progression of the western art music history. It was the beginning of the transitional point from classical era to romantic era and because of these points, it had consequence to mankind and the music development significantly.

Beethoven's music journey was a kind of interesting. He was the second-oldest child of the musician family; his father was the first music teacher and so strictly on teaching him day through night as he dream Beethoven to be the second Mozart.

Beethoven appeared first time to the public on piano performance at the age of seven

after that he continued studying with many teachers. In 1787, Beethoven went to Vienna for further studying in music; he had an occasion to meet Mozart and performed piano to him after the performance, Mozart appreciated and said to his friends that in one day the name Beethoven will be recognized in the world.¹ He was being well-known in Vienna after his first performance of piano concertos in 1795. Unluckily, in 1796 his hearing got a problem then he tried to turn his position from player to be the composer and composed so many well known and melodious songs that influential on people until this present day. Later he got completely deaf and severe illness, then, in 1827 he passed away².

Beethoven composed so numerous valuable opuses lasting until this day; mostly, people will know his great opuses in Symphonies, Concertos and Sonatas. His musical works can be divided into to three periods: early period (period extends to 1802), middle period (1803-1812) and mature period (1813-1827).³ In the early period, his language of composing styles was a great classical music; the first and second symphony was composed in this period as well as two piano concertos and twenty two piano sonatas, included Moonlight sonata, the most famous one. Secondly, the middle period, it was known to be his most well-know period. Symphonies number three through eight, last three piano concertos were composed during this period as well. Beethoven departed himself from the classical route to the beginning of romanticism as he spoke to his friend that he not satisfied with his works earlier and from now on, he will take on to the new pathway and that was the beginning of the new era of those great works.⁴ He used his direct feeling, perception,

¹ Pam Brown. *Ludwig van Beethoven*. 1993. P.15.

² Pam Brown. *Ludwig van Beethoven*. 1993. p.61-62.

³ Wikipedia contributors . " Beethoven's music style" *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 8 Feb. 2012. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beethoven's_musical_style

⁴ Peter Gutmann. " Ludwig van Beethoven Symphony#3 Eroica " *Classical Notes*. 9 Feb.2012 .
<<http://www.classicalnotes.net/classics3/eroica.html>>

imagination and personal experiences to be the inputs of the compositions delivered to touch the emotion of the audience to experience what the composer imply through the opuses, but the music in classical era were not so familiar with these ways of composing, as a result, Beethoven was said to be the transition of the classical era and romantic era as one of his feet stand on classical era and another one on romantic era.⁵ The opuses that showed the obvious transition was his symphonies, especially was the symphony no.3 or Eroica. In this symphony, he intend to dedicate to Napoleon Bonaparte, the first emperor of French, because of his veneration in the French revolution, but later on Bonaparte had established himself as the emperor making Beethoven felt disappointed with his ambitious then he torn the title out and replaced by the new one , Eroica.⁶ For the concepts and techniques composing this symphony was absolutely new and it took twice in length compared to other classical symphonies. It presented more powerful, emotional and unique than previous or other works. The first movement experienced dramatic and difficultness, the second movement started with the funeral march feeling severe sorrowful so, it being used in the public funeral ,the third movement was lively representation and the fourth movement displayed people facing terror and saying that these were the reflecting of Beethoven himself. These show that why saying that the beginning of romanticism started in this period. Another example of the most reputable and widely listening works of Beethoven was the symphony no.5. This version might sound familiar to many people in this day but it did not so famous during his lifetime, it began to be well-known since in the World War Two that BBC used it as the opening theme song

⁵ Wikipedia contributors . "Ludwig van Beethoven" *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 8 Feb. 2012. <[http:// http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludwig_van_Beethoven](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludwig_van_Beethoven)>

⁶Aaron Green , "The Eroica Symphony – Beethoven." *about.com /classical music*. 10 Feb. 2012. <<http://classicalmusic.about.com/od/symphonies/a/aeroica.htm>>

and later was widely been use in many movies also. Next, comes to the last period, mature period, the works in this period were intense , intellectual and individual express and during this period his hearing problem was more severe making him to lose the contacts with other ,however, he able to compose the last five piano sonatas and the symphony no.9 and so on.

Beethoven was one of the most significance musical people of the world that so many aspects were influenced by him. He influenced many composers behind him after he had introduced the western art music history with the new style of composing, he composed the songs followed his life experiences, feelings, perceptions and so on, called the way of romantic style that was apparently seen by the symphony no.3. Because of this, the romanticism composers and other composers were influenced by him such as Johannes Brahms, Franz Schubert, Frederic Chopin. For instance, Johannes Brahms, the German composer and pianist of Romantic era that, for example, composed his symphony no.1 that influenced by Beethoven's Symphony no.9 in the final movement, saying that his works mostly followed Beethoven's styles and techniques as Beethoven's works were his inspiration.⁷ As Beethoven and his works be influential on the great composers, consequently this also influenced on the music today in many sides as well ,for example, as he created the innovative style of composing that more intensive on feeling, perception and so on, this would generated the great compositions to be composed time by time as those great composers had the very good inspiration and example to realize and these would also lead to the development of the music as the style of music altered as time changes, thus we can

⁷ Wikipedia contributors. "Johannes Brahms" *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 12 Feb. 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Wagner >

say that Beethoven and his works ,particularly his third symphony were the key of those advantages and progressions.

All of his valuable and notable opuses he composed reflect how the musical intelligence he was, as he composed his works with intellectual styles and techniques. His great contributions to mankind were so numerous and valuable at all , but the most important one seem to be the Symphony no.3 as it was the crucial point that represented the development of western music history, in case of it was the turning point to romantic era, and this consequences to be the very good case study of the new-generation composers and anyone who interested to learn and realize, so the quality opuses will continue generation by generation, as a result, how mankind like us will not be influenced by these effects?.