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Thanat Somboon

Ludwig van Beethoven

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Since a long time ago in the past, music has been used in several purposes. Mostly, people have used it in many celebrations in order to amuse visitors. In addition, when the time has passed, music has been varied and developed as people, generally, always discover new things. Focusing on music, many styles have been initiated while some old music styles have been being forgotten until now. However, there are also some of them that are still famous, and those interest the listeners a lot. For example, Beethoven is one of the musicians in the old eras whose music is still popular at the present time. He composed the song in his style so melodious that his fame and work are the legendary history today. Likewise, his interesting biography and his legendary works, nowadays, are widely followed by many millions of people throughout the world.

Back to the 18th century, there originated one of the world's legendary musicians and composers. Beethoven, one of the most famous and influential composers of western music during the classical and romantic eras, was the German pianist. He was a solitary artist. Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany in 1770. His father was irresponsible and alcoholic. His father hoped that Beethoven would be as a great musician as Mozart. After that he moved to Vienna, Austria, to study more about music. At Vienna, he met Mozart and had an opportunity to play piano for him. But after that he had to move back to Bonn, his hometown, because his mom was

sick. After his mom passed away, he settled down at Vienna and succeeded in his career. After that he realized that he had a problem with his ears. At that time, his works were not understood by people in the same era of him because its detail was too modern for people but nowadays all of his works that was considered as very weird style of western music at that time are very popular. Although, his life was not smooth like others' because he has many disadvantages that he needed to fight against. These caused him tension. As we can see in many of his images, his countenance expresses a lot of anxiety but with his strong mind, he could overcome all difficulties in his life. His works were admired by many famous romantic composers. Beethoven is their role model because of his talent and genius skills that are hard to find in anyone else. His works, symphony no.5, 6, 7, 9 and concerto for piano, especially concerto no.4 and 5, are the most well known creations.

His appearance showed that he immersed oneself in his past. His expression implies to his tension and naturally, he was a hot-tempered man. By his physical look, he is not a good looking guy, with his big head and a roman nose. Beethoven was short and awkward. His manner was like a working class man is a fact that could not hide by his luxurious garment.

Appearance of Beethoven in Vienna where was full of aristocracies¹. With his dirty aspect, any polite or magnificent manner could not hope to get from Beethoven. Like any composers in that era, his income is a pension from a noble wealthy man. But he was never been under anyone mandate. This great pianist was not a musical courtier as another. All of these show that his quality of his music was proper to his salary and he survived with that money.

¹Wikimedia Foundation. "Aristocracy." *Wikipedia*.06 Feb. 2013.
<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristocracy>>

The world that Beethoven was born was a muddle world. It was a world that full of wars. During the French Revolution,² Beethoven created the new pattern of art in the time like this. His works were the best things that can show the spirit of humanity in his era. Because Europe that was full of war against the French Revolution troops, any capital cities were full of spies, the free opinions were restrained by checking of any printed matter. Anything that couldn't be express by the alphabet could be found in Beethoven's musical works.

Unlucky, fate was cruel. As a musician, ears were the most significant organs that he need but in 1796, Beethoven was sick by inflammation of meninx that affect to his hearing. In 1800, he was deaf but not definitely. However, this was very brutal for him. His life was not happy like others. Beethoven always fell in love with wife or daughter of his wealthy supporter and always end with sadness. Only one thing that can help him from his way of life is his music. These made his music full of spirit from Beethoven, the great pianist.

One of the most well-known works by Beethoven is Symphony no.3, also known as Eroica Symphony. This work sometimes was considered as an ending of classical style and as a starting of romantic style. Beethoven started to compose Eroica because his faithfulness in Napoleon Bonaparte during the French revolution. At first, he conceived of dedicating the symphony to the French leader by named his work as "Bonaparte". But afterwards, Napoleon established himself as an emperor of the French. Beethoven was disappointed in Napoleon's ambition. He was angry and

²Wikimedia Foundation."French Revolution." *Wikipedia*. 06 Feb. 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Revolution>.

renamed his work as The Symphony Eroica.³ His works gave people of Vienna, who were familiar with Mozart's or Haydn's style, a fright because Beethoven made a difference. Eroica Symphony implied something from his mind. Its conflict sound and violence in the first verse were a call for an attention. Then he started to express his music in a rash style. In the first verse, we are in the unsteady situation of French Revolution, victory and defeat. These were a French Revolution in his composition. The second verse was a funeral march, a recall of heroes. The slow sadly play of this march was implied to the glory and triumph of sacrifice by all heroes for revolution. In the last verse, this symphony ended with the key that indicate to optimism. After defeated, difficulties and all disappointments, Beethoven was going to tell us that we were losing something that we love but we have to pass these and keep moving. Human spirit is strong enough to overcome dignifiedly with all loses.

Although, he was not born in the wealthy family and his father was alcoholic, but he has the opportunity which let him to know the music. He devoted himself to acquire knowledge of music, since he was young. Beethoven faced with many obstacles, but the strongly one is hard of hearing. Even though, he could get through this by having faith in himself. Furthermore, he wrote the greatest symphony, while he was deaf, for the new generation to study. In the time that nobody can express their thought, he used his talent to express his idea which is about wars and political. When he felt depress and disappoint, he used music to heal his mental. Beethoven shows how to live in this brutal world by has these two things which is faith and music, the most things that he love.

³Peter Harrison. "Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major." 07 Feb. 2013. <
<http://www.lvbeethoven.co.uk/page22.html#Anchor3>>

