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PULSE

Triple Play



A Triple Play of Beethoven:

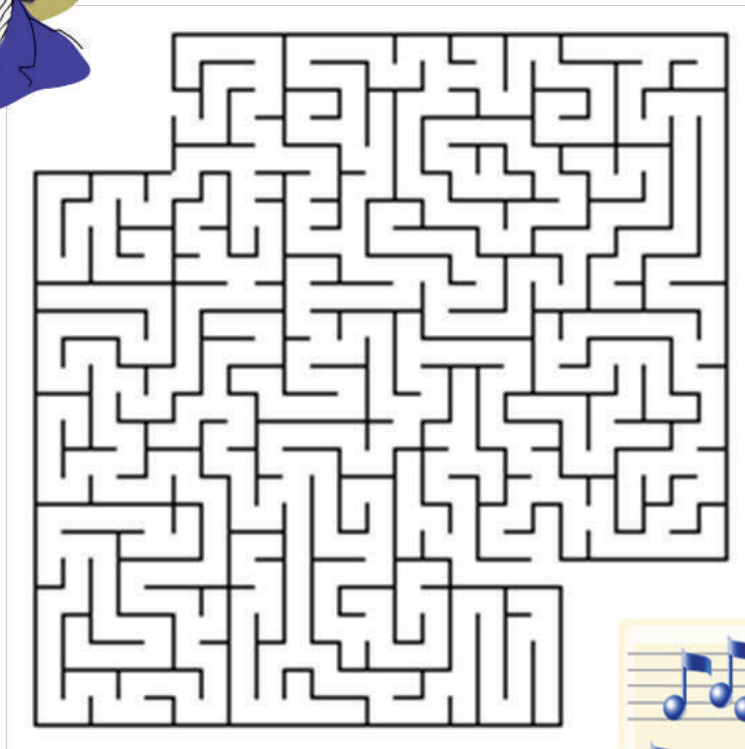
Coriolan Overture

Piano Concerto #3

Symphony # 6, Pastoral

The Pulse provides program notes and activities for our
young listeners.

HELP BEETHOVEN FIND HIS NOTES!



CLOSE UP!

All About Nashua Symphony Clarinetist Steve Jackson

- *How long have you performed with The Nashua Symphony?* Regularly for about 4 years.



- *When did you begin to study music?* At age 6 or 7 with private recorder lessons, then drum lessons. At age 9 I started playing the clarinet. The school band offered wind instruments to rent, and I chose clarinet. . . For some reason I can't recall now!
- *What do you like about the Nashua Symphony?* The Board and community is truly likable and committed to the orchestra's cause. Also I think the orchestra and Maestro McPhee together will truly enrich us all, especially the city of Nashua.
- *What kind of music do you listen to?* I really don't listen to music to unwind or recreate, with one exception: The Beatles. For me their music is as fresh, enlightening, and universal as it was 40 years ago.
- *What are your hobbies?* Reading, exercise, repairing wind instruments, inspecting snow storms.
- *What's your favorite restaurant?* Blue Ribbon BBQ in Newton Corner.
- *What's your favorite vacation spot?* My soft chair.



MUSIC STYLES

Overture: An overture is usually an instrumental introduction to a dramatic, choral, or sometimes instrumental composition. When you go hear a musical in the theater, there is an overture that introduces the play.



Concerto: This is a piece written to show off a single soloist with an orchestra in the background. There were often competitions for concerto winners. American Idol is a modern-day “concerto” competition where singers are featured in front of a live



band. Tonight we hear a piano concerto.

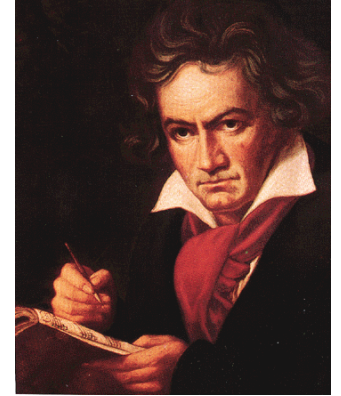
Symphony: Typically, this four movement piece is written for a large orchestra. Each movement is a different style and speed.

It's like listening to four songs in a row by the same artist from your favorite CD.



LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

Beethoven, one of the greatest composers of all time, lived from 1770—1827. A pianist, violinist, and conductor, he was born in Bonn, Germany and eventually moved to Vienna, Austria in his early 20s.



His father, a tenor, was his first music teacher. Unfortunately, his father was quite irresponsible, and his mother died of tuberculosis when he was 16—so it was left up to Beethoven to raise his 2 younger brothers.

He is a good example that adversity doesn't keep people from accomplishing great things! Not only did he have to become very responsible at a young age, but Beethoven gradually went deaf starting in his 20s—no one knows exactly why.

Yet, he wrote some of the most amazing music every composed. One thing he said that helped him was his devoted circle of friends.

How do your friends help you? How do you help them?

CORIOLAN OVERTURE AND SYMPHONY # 6

The Coriolan Overture was written in 1807 and was first publicly performed in Vienna in December of the same year. It was composed as a prelude to a drama by the German poet Heinrich Josef von Collin, to whom Beethoven dedicated it.



The story is one that William Shakespeare also wrote about. The major events revolve around Coriolanus being banished from Rome, the pleading of his mother, wife, and children that he should return, his abandonment of the allies, and his tragic death.

Symphony #6, called the Pastoral Symphony, was finished in 1808. Originally, it also had the title,



“Recollections of Country Life.” Beethoven loved nature, and taking walks. In this work you can hear how Beethoven made his music sound like

thunderstorms, bird calls, and dances. Listen closely and see if you can hear those in the music—and then go take a spring walk and hear them!

VIRGINIA ESKIN AND PIANO CONCERTO # 3



Virginia Eskin, a California native and long-time Boston resident, is an extremely versatile solo pianist, chamber player and lecturer, known for both standard classical repertoire and

ragtime, and a long-time champion of the works of American and European women composers.

Piano Concerto #3

Beethoven wrote this in 1800, but its first performance came 3 years later. Beethoven conducted from the piano, and he played the piano solo virtually without music because he had not had time to write it down! His page-turner said, *"I saw almost nothing but empty leaves, at most on one page or the other a few Egyptian hieroglyphs wholly unintelligible to me scribbled down to serve as clues for him... He gave me a secret glance whenever he was at the end of one of the invisible passages, and my scarcely concealed anxiety not to miss the decisive moment amused him greatly. He laughed heartily at the jovial supper we ate afterward."*