

Beethoven Comparisons

Repertoire:

Activity 1:

1. Symphony No 1 in C major, 4th Mvt: https://youtu.be/keAphDGM4do (0 – 1' 45")
2. Symphony No 5 in C Minor, 1st Mvt: https://youtu.be/mibyHDxLey0 (0 – 1' 40")

Activity 2:

3. Symphony No 5 in C Minor, graphic score: https://youtu.be/rRgXUFnfKIY (whole movement)

Resources:

1. Comparisons writing frame

Activity 1:

Listen and compare the opening of two symphonic movements, Symphony No 1, 4th Mvt and Symphony No 5, 1st Mvt. The timings suggested above can be extended, if students are concentrated and need more time to complete the task.

1. Distribute the comparisons writing frame provided.
2. Explain that students should begin by analysing each piece, making notes in the 'How different' boxes which focus on different dimensions of the music.
3. Play the excerpts again if necessary.
4. Having completed the 'How different' boxes, ask them to reflect on the two pieces and complete the 'How alike' box.
5. Next, in pairs, discuss the two pieces using their written analysis as a prompt, adding to or modifying their responses in light of the conversation.
6. As a class, discuss which piece they preferred and why?

Activity 2:

Listen to the whole of the first movement of Beethoven's 5th Symphony, following the synchronised graphic score (see repertoire above).

Discuss:

1. What do you think Beethoven was trying to express in this piece i.e. what is the underlying mood and what might be the underlying message of the piece?
2. How effective was the graphic score in helping navigating through the music? What are its strengths and weaknesses?

Symphony No 1
Finale excerpt

Symphony No 5
1st Movement
excerpt

How alike?

How different?

	Instruments (What are they and how are they used?)	
	Dynamics (Changes in volume)	
	Structure (how is the music sequenced?)	
	Melody (e.g. shapes, character etc.)	
	Rhythm (pulse, beats in a bar, rhythms & their effect)	