

Beethoven Screen Play

Repertoire:

1. Wellington's Victory: Youtube link 1 (Use as audio i.e. do not display this video): https://youtu.be/9fK0_bAW1FQ
2. Wellington's Victory Youtube link 2 (VIDEO): https://youtu.be/samfSDbZnko

Resources:

1. Wellington's Victory Writing Frame / Story board

Context

Wellington's Victory, or the ***Battle of Vitoria*** (also called the ***Battle Symphony***) is a 15-minute-long orchestral work composed by Ludwig van Beethoven to commemorate the Duke of Wellington's victory over Joseph Bonaparte at the Battle of Vitoria in Spain on 21 June 1813. It was dedicated to the Prince Regent, later King George IV. Beethoven composed the piece between August and first week of October 1813. The piece proved to be a substantial money-maker for Beethoven.

Activity 1 (using Youtube link 1 above):

1. Explain that this is a descriptive (programmatic) piece composed by Beethoven to describe Wellington's victory over Napoleon at Waterloo:
2. Distribute the writing frame provided below with space to respond to the opening five sections (a – e) of the piece (see timings below).
3. For each of the five sections, students listen to the music and write (or draw) what they imagine the music is describing, explaining in musical terms WHY (i.e. which musical ingredients or features have led them to this conclusion)
4. Following completion, pupils could grouped into fours, each student feeding back their interpretation and explaining their musical thinking.

Note: The opening five sections correspond to the following timings. Start and stop each section, allowing time for students to reflect and respond to the music before moving on to the next:

a. 00 – 1.37 (Perhaps the British army arrives)
b. 1.37 – 3.05 (Perhaps the French army arrives)
c. 3.05 – 5.26 (Perhaps the battle commences)
d. 5.26 – 6.05 (Perhaps new troops arrive at the front)
e. 6.05 – 7.35 (Perhaps the battle continues and draws to a conclusion)

Extension: The remaining sections of the piece could also be interpreted in order to extend the activity further (an additional writing frame would then need to be provided)

f. 7.44 – 9.18 (Perhaps dialogue between the two leaders)
g. 9.18 – 10.24 (Perhaps a formal surrender is declared)
h. 10.24 – 11.16 (Perhaps victory celebrations)
i. 11.16 – END (Perhaps the victorious army returns home)

Activity 2 (using Youtube link 2 above):

Finally, watch a film version of the whole piece i.e. Youtube video link 2 (above)
Point out is a film compiled of fragments taken from the movie 'Waterloo' and sequenced according to one person's

Wellington's Victory by Ludwig Van Beethoven

Section	My interpretation of the music
a	**I imagine** **Because the music**
b	**I imagine** **Because the music**
c	**I imagine** **Because the music**
d	**I imagine** **Because the music**
e	**I imagine** **Because the music**