

# Meridian Music of the Week!

## Issue No. 4

Each week ALL our children will be listening to a piece of classical music as part of our music lessons. We'll be talking about it in class and discussing what we like, what we don't like and what it makes us think or feel.

Parents/carers/family - why not join in and listen for yourself at home! All music is available **free** on YouTube as well as paid services such as iTunes and Spotify.



### This week's music...

*'The Moonlight Sonata' (Piano Sonata No. 14) by Ludwig van Beethoven*

YouTube:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nT7\\_IzPHHb0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nT7_IzPHHb0)

Well, after a few weeks of fast **tempo**, loud **dynamics**, thick **texture** music (ask your children if they know what these words mean!) – it's time to relax a little. This is one of Ludwig van Beethoven's (pronounced 'Bay-toe-vun') most famous pieces of music. It's slow, quiet and only has a single piano in it. The perfect relaxation music after a busy day!

Beethoven was a German composer who was born in 1770. He wrote many famous pieces including his 9<sup>th</sup> symphony (now the anthem of the European Union) and his 5<sup>th</sup> symphony (da-da-da-daaaah!) He famously became deaf during his life as a composer and spent his last years being unable to actually hear the music he was writing. Can you imagine how terrible that must be for a musician?

He wrote the Moonlight Sonata for piano in 1801 – but it wasn't called that when he wrote it. It wasn't until over 30 years later that a music critic suggested that the beginning of the piece reminded him of the effect of moonlight on a lake. After that, the name stuck!

It became very famous, even in Beethoven's lifetime – but he wasn't always pleased about that. He used to grumble that he'd written lots of other great pieces of music but people only ever remembered **this** one!

Does it make YOU think of moonlight on a lake? Or do you have **other** pictures in your mind when you listen to it? What does it make YOU think of?

Listen and enjoy!

**Mr. Mole**  
**Music teacher**

