

MOZART: HORN CONCERTO No. 4

Mozart wrote all four horn concertos for his friend Joseph Leutgeb, an idle old horn player and owner of a cheese shop who took plenty of stick from Mozart for being not exactly the world's smartest guy. He was not the most talented of performers and Mozart used to write comments in the score teasing Leutgeb. In the fourth horn concerto he wrote in several different coloured inks to confuse him. Nevertheless the two men seem to have been good friends and Leutgeb took it all in good part.

Mozart composed his concertos for the natural horn which consists of a long piece of metal tubing coiled round with a mouthpiece one end and a flared bell at the other end. It has no valves (or 'keys' if you prefer), and to get certain notes, the player has to stick his hand up the bell.

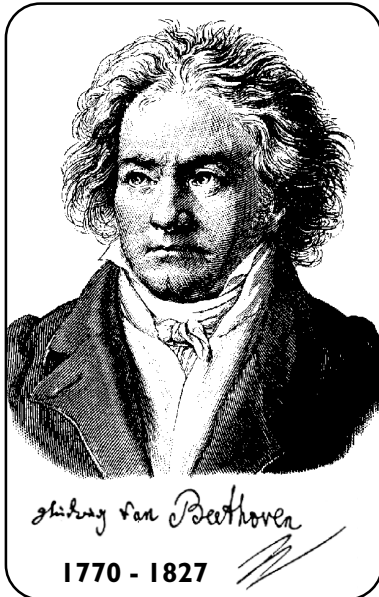
- **Written:** 1786
- **Title:** Concerto for Horn and Strings No. 4 in E flat Major K495
- **What it is:** Concerto for 'French' horn and strings in three movements
- **Length:** 15 minutes (8 + 4 + 3 = 15)
- **Why it's famous:** The hunting-horn finale with that unforgettable tune
- **Where you heard it before:** Lots of TV programmes and Vauxhall Carlton TV ads in the UK
- **What else is famous:** The Marriage of Figaro and the Requiem

The final movement of the concerto is a memorable rondo. The easiest way to think of a rondo is as a kind of musical club sandwich. The opening, Theme A, is the first slice of bread on which to base your sandwich. Theme B would be your first filling followed by another slice of bread (Theme A returning). The next Theme, C, would be a different filling. You then add another slice of bread (Theme A) with finally a garnish to finish the sandwich off. This would be the coda (Theme D). This ABACAD structure is called a rondo, and was the usual structure of a concerto finale in the Classical period which Mozart composed in.

**THINGS TO DO**

Listen to the movement and see if you can hear the different themes. Can you see how a rondo fits together as a kind of musical club sandwich?

Try to compose your own rondo, keep the ideas short and remember to make your main theme (A) easy to remember as it keeps coming back! If you find it hard to make up a melody try working on a rhythm at first and make up a percussion rondo before trying to add a tune.

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

- 1770** Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany
- 1778** Beethoven gave his first public recital
- 1783** Beethoven's piano music was published for the first time
- 1787** Beethoven met Mozart in Vienna and studied with him for a short time
- 1789** Beethoven went to university in Bonn
- 1793** Beethoven studied with Haydn but the two men did not like one another
- 1796** The first signs of deafness begin
- 1800** The 1st Symphony was performed
- 1801** Beethoven composed the famous Moonlight Sonata
- 1802** Beethoven wrote the 2nd Symphony, the Opus 30 Violin Sonatas and Opus 31 Piano Sonatas
- 1805** Beethoven wrote the opera Lenore and the first public performance of his 3rd Symphony (Eroica) was given
- 1806** Beethoven wrote the Symphony No.4 and the Violin Concerto
- 1808** Beethoven wrote the 5th and 6th Symphonies
- 1809** Beethoven's 5th Piano Concerto was completed

**FASCINATING FACTS**

- Beethoven first started music lessons at just four years old learning piano, violin and composition.
- Beethoven was completely deaf for the last 7 years of his life but he wrote some of his greatest works during this period, including his 9th Choral Symphony.

- 1810** Beethoven set the writer Goethe's Work "Egmont" to music
- 1812** The 7th and 8th Symphonies were completed
- 1815** Beethoven gave his last public concert as a pianist
- 1819** Beethoven was made an honorary member of the Philharmonic Society of London
- 1824** The first performance of the 9th (Choral) Symphony was given
- 1826** Beethoven became ill with pneumonia
- 1827** Beethoven died on the 26th March

**THINGS TO DO**

Imagine you are Beethoven and write a paragraph detailing how you feel when you first realise that you are losing your hearing. Think about the fact the Beethoven wrote some of his greatest music when he was completely deaf!

Now answer the questions on a separate sheet:

1. What year was Beethoven born?
2. How old was Beethoven when he gave his first public performance?
3. Who did Beethoven meet in 1787?
4. Who did Beethoven study with in Vienna?
5. When did Beethoven first realise he was going deaf?
6. What year was the first performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony?