



The Music Continues

Few words can describe Beethoven's fierce, magical hold on us. Perhaps it is his profound ability to "paint" the sound and awaken the listener's heart.

Guitarist Chuck Berry used Beethoven as an icon to shake up the music world in 1956 and start the rock and roll revolution. He struck gold with his hit single, "Roll Over Beethoven" (painting above shows Berry playing the piece). The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Status Quo, and other artists used Berry's song. The Beatles' version found its way into *Superman III*, while Paul Shaffer and his band played it in the St. Bernard film *Beethoven*. Walter Murphy's *A Fifth of Beethoven*, which is a spin on Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, produced the famous disco sound track in the movie *Saturday Night Fever*.

For more than 75 years, Beethoven's symphonies have appeared in major motion pictures, including *Fantasia* and *Star Trek: Insurrection*. Musicians today explore Beethoven's compositions to discover other motifs and themes for their songs. Pop songs with

Beethoven roots include artists from rock and roll to rap. Even Charles Schultz's *Peanuts*' character Schroeder pounds the piano to Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. As he does so, the character Lucy vies for his attention (see inset at left). On the television show "The Simpsons," Nelson's flying fingers play Beethoven's Fifth, as his piano instructor hovers. And the space probe *Voyager* that launched in 1977 blasted the Fifth Symphony to the universe. Beethoven's "Ode to Joy," his universal message of brotherhood, has been used in protests in China's Tiananmen Square, at the fall of the Berlin Wall, and during the 2017 victory rally arrival of French president Emmanuel Macron.

Pop songs with Beethoven roots have been arranged by artists representing a variety of genres, including both rock and roll and pop:

- 🕒 The Beatles, an English rock band, based the song "Because" on Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*.
- 🕒 The American pop girl group Shangri-Las also based its song "Past, Present, and Future" on *Moonlight Sonata*.
- 🕒 The American singer-songwriter Alicia Keys based her song "Piano and I" on *Moonlight Sonata*.
- 🕒 The American singer-songwriter Billy Joel based his song "This Night" on *Pathétique Sonata*.