

Beethoven

Short 5-minute task: Musical Motifs

The movement opens with a very famous musical idea (sometimes called a musical motif). This has 3 short notes, followed by a longer note, and is repeated a tone lower after a pause:



How many times can you hear this motif in the opening section of the piece? Use your fingers to count or write down a tally here.

Are all the repetitions the same, or does Beethoven make some changes? Have a think and be ready to discuss your ideas.

Medium 20-minute task: Art Challenge

Your teacher will give you the resource you will work on for this challenge.

Longer 45-minute task: Morse Code Alien Communication

Beethoven's opening rhythm can be seen as a musical code – have a go practicing it:

Short – Short – Short – Looooonnnngggg

Short – Short – Short – Looooonnnngggg

Did you know this links to Morse Code – a way of spelling out letters using short and long beeps? Pretty cool! This piece was sent as a recording into space by the Philharmonia in 1977. Your task is to write some music to go alongside it to communicate with aliens that the spaceship might find.

Use the morse code on the next page to work out which letter Beethoven's motif is linked to, then try spelling some different words:

Step 1: In pairs, try communicating a common word like 'Hey' or 'Cat' using body percussion, blinking or using your voice. Can the other person guess your word?

Step 2: then try to make a melody out of this rhythm using different pitches

Step 3: then add different dynamics and tempo changes to add more complexity

Step 4: try to then do this with a longer phrase to communicate to the aliens

Morse Code

A ■ ■■■
B ■■■ ■■■
C ■■■ ■■■■
D ■■■ ■■
E ■
F ■■ ■■■■
G ■■■ ■■■■
H ■■ ■■■■
I ■■
J ■ ■■■ ■■■■
K ■■■ ■■■
L ■ ■■■ ■■
M ■■■ ■■■

N ■■■ ■
O ■■■ ■■■■
P ■ ■■■ ■■■■
Q ■■■ ■■■ ■■■■
R ■ ■■■ ■
S ■■ ■■
T ■■■
U ■■ ■■■■
V ■■ ■■ ■■■■
W ■ ■■■ ■■■■
X ■■■ ■■ ■■■■
Y ■■■ ■ ■■■■
Z ■■■ ■■■ ■■