



PATHETIQUE

L VAN BEETHOVEN (1796 -
1799)

VOCABULARY LIST

CONTEXT

- **Classical era:** The period between 1750 and 1825.
- **Romantic era:** The predominant style in the 1800s.
- **Pathetique:** A mood that is moving/emotional.

STRUCTURE

- **Movement:** An independent section in a longer piece of music.
- **Sonata form:** A common structure in the Classical era and later. Consists of subjects, expositions, development, recapitulation and coda.
- **Exposition:** The first section of a movement in sonata form.
- **Development:** The central section of sonata form.
- **Recapitulation:** The final section of sonata form.
- **Subject:** One of two important themes in sonata form.
- **Coda:** The closing section.
- **Transition:** A section used to take the music from one key to another by modulation. Acts like a 'bridge'.

PERFORMING FORCES

- **Virtuoso:** A musician that displays exceptional technical skill.
- **Fortepiano:** An early piano.
- **Mordent:** An ornament played as a rapid wiggle from the printed note to the note above and back.
- **Sustaining pedal:** Used to prolong a piano sound after the note is played.
- **Articulation:** The way the note is played, how it is attacked and prolonged.
- **Legato:** Play the note in a smooth and connected manner.
- **Staccato:** Play the note in a short and detached manner.



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HARMONY AND TONALITY

- **Unrelated keys:** Keys that share very few similar notes. Eg, C major and F# major.
- **Circle of 5ths:** A series of chords where the roots are a 5th higher or lower from the previous one.
- **Pedal:** A sustained or repeated note sounded against changing harmonies.
- **Perfect cadence:** Chords V-I. Makes a phrase sound finished.
- **Interrupted cadence:** Chord V(7) followed by any chord except I, usually VI.
- **Imperfect cadence:** Chord I, II or IV to V. Sounds unfinished.
- **Alberti bass:** A figuration commonly used in the Classical period, made up of broken chords used as an accompaniment.
- **Enharmonic:** 2 notes or scales that are written differently but sound the same, eg. C# and Db.
- **Diminished 7th:** A 4 note chord comprising of minor third intervals.
- **Dominant preparation:** A passage focused on the dominant chord to create expectation for a return to the tonic.
- **Cadential 6/4:** A perfect cadence using chords IC-V-I.

RHYTHM, METRE AND TEMPO

- **Alla breve time:** 2/2 time signature.
- **Grave:** Very slow tempo.
- **Allegro di molto e con brio:** Quickly, with much vigour.