A collage featuring a portrait of Ludwig van Beethoven. The portrait is the central focus, showing his face with a serious expression. The background of the collage is dark, and the edges are decorated with bright colors: purple on the left, green on the right, and orange at the bottom. Four pieces of white, torn paper are pasted over the portrait, each containing a word in a different color. The words are 'Ah', 'ESSAY', 'Oh', and 'BEETHOVEN'.

Ah

ESSAY

Oh

BEETHOVEN

Ludwig Van Beethoven was one of the greatest classical music composers of all time. People still admire his work today. He composed nine symphonies and did many piano works, over three hundred in fact. Ludwig was born in Bonn, Germany on December 16, 1770. At age thirteen he published his first piano works he named Sonatina....only thirteen! His father pushed him to practice and get better because he wanted him to earn money. Ludwig's father wasn't very nice....Ludwig said that there are few good memories with his father. Ludwig was sometimes called the crazy man, he would be so grouchy but then five minutes later he would be nice and act like it never happened.

When he was young he visited Vienna because that was where all the great composers were living. Unfortunately he had to leave early because of the death of his mother. Soon after he realized that he was having trouble hearing. In 1792 Beethoven returned to Vienna to stay. There he studied with Franz Hayden. In 1801 he went almost completely deaf. He still composed music but instead of hearing the music he felt it. At practices he would yell at the German singers because he could feel that they weren't singing high enough. He would bang keys on the piano making a racket, but in his head he heard wonderful music. He knew what the notes sounded like, he could hear them in his head. In 1806 he published his third symphony "Eroica". In 1808 Beethoven's fifth symphony was published. From then on he dealt with his deafness and concentrated on composing great music. In 1812 his seventh symphony was published and in 1824 the ninth symphony was published, with it's great finale of Schillers' Ode to Joy premiered. Nobody wanted that to be his last but it was. Beethoven was known for his thick and unruly gray hair. His mouth, as he got older became almost a permanent frown. Beethoven was, by nature, impatient, impulsive, unreasonable, and intolerant. Deafness added to this. Beethoven's childhood was not very good. His father would make him play for the amusement of it while he was drinking. Ludwig's mother died in the summer of 1787. In 1792 Beethoven's father died, Beethoven was not too upset. Beethoven became the supporter in his family.

Beethoven's use of time was somewhat like this: Beethoven rose at daybreak and went to his work table right away. He worked there until two

or three o' clock. Then he took his afternoon meal. During the later hours he walked around outside working as he walked. He would also read, and at ten o' clock at the latest he went to bed. Beethoven's death was to be recalled somewhat dramatic. At 5:45 pm on March 26,1827, a storm raged and Beethoven's room was suddenly filled with light and shaken with thunder. Beethoven was said to have died of pneumonia, but later when scientists researched his body they found high traces of lead, this might have been one cause of his death. Beethoven wanted to change the world with his music, and in my opinion he did.



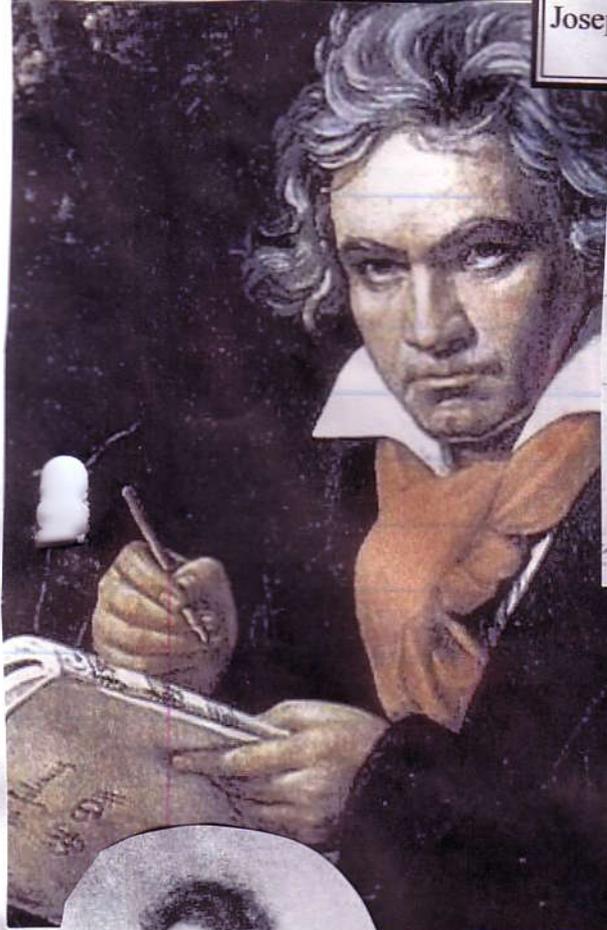
Pictures of Beethoven and His life



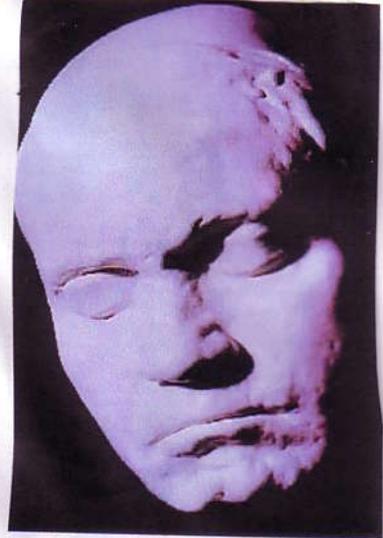
Beethoven's father and mother



Joseph Haydn (right) attempted to guide the young Beethoven's (left) talent.



Caricature of Beethoven.



A life mask of Beethoven made by Franz Klein.

