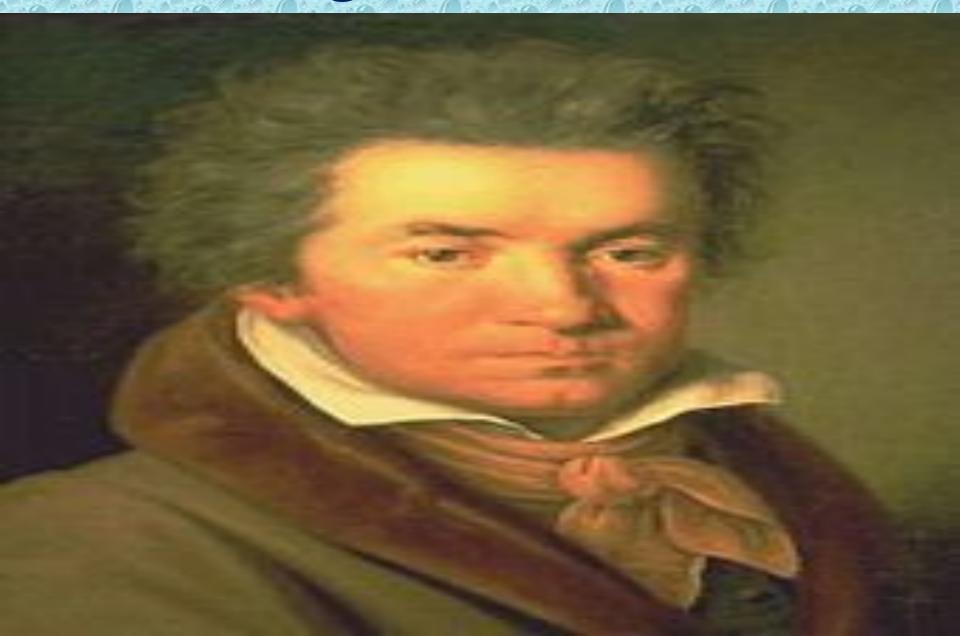
Ludwig van Beethoven





Birthplace Ludwig van Beethoven - the greatest German composer, pianist, conductor. He was born in December, 1770 in Bonn in a musical family.

Musical childhood

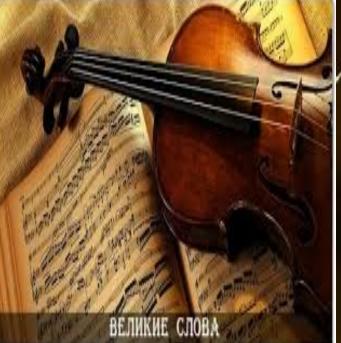
Since his childhood, he began to learn to play the organ, harpsichord, violin and flute. His first musical teacher was



After his mother's death in 1787 he assumed the financial responsibilitie s of the family. Ludwig **Beethoven** started playing in an orchestra to earn money.









First fame

When he met Haydn in Bonn, **Beethoven decided** to take lessons from him, he moved to Vienna. Haydn said that **Beethoven's music** was dark and strange. However, in those years, his excellent playing on the piano brought him his first fame.

The peak of his career

From 1802 to1812 Beethoven wrote his sonatas, with a special desire and zeal. Then he created a whole series of works for piano and cello, the famous Ninth Symphony, Solemn Mass. Composer's popularity was very high. Even the government, despite of his candid thoughts, did not dare to limit the musician.





Strange tradition

Each time before sitting down and start to compose music, Beethoven dipped his head in a basin with cold water. This technique was so entered in his habit, so the composer could not get rid of it until the end of his life.

Death

March 26, 1827 at the age of 57 Beethoven died. It is unknown, but U.S. researchers, examining hair and skull fragments of **Ludwig van** Beethoven, came to the conclusion that the great German composer, probably died of a long lead poisoning.



