

Ode to Joy

(Beethoven's Ninth)

Arranged by **Randall Standridge**

It is my opinion that band students are never too young to begin learning about the masters of our art form. Unfortunately, many of the works of the masters are too difficult for beginning band students to play. This arrangement is an attempt to capture much of the spirit and excitement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony for younger musicians.

In addition to learning how to play this piece, be sure to include information about the composer in your lessons. A study guide and worksheet have been provided to aid you in your efforts.

Students should produce a bold, full sound. The style should be full with no staccatos. Introduce your younger students to the *sforzando* (*sfz*) as it is used in measure 16, and do not be satisfied until the students have achieved this skill.

Make sure the sound is balanced and that all melody and harmony can be heard equally. Balancing down to the bass voices will produce a much fuller, darker sound.

Focus the students' attention on the different dynamic levels, in order to create the greatest amount of musical effect. Over-emphasize the changes in dynamic levels so that it is noticeable to the students and your audience.

I hope you and your students enjoy this piece. Teach them everything they can learn. Play them a recording of the actual symphony. Ask them questions about Beethoven *daily*. Make sure that your students are studying the *music*; not just the 2nd trumpet part.

Study Guide: **Ode to Joy** (Beethoven's Ninth)

Name: _____

Ludwig Van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany, in 1770. His first music teacher was his father, Johann van Beethoven. During his childhood, Beethoven learned to play the piano, organ, violin, and viola. In 1792, Beethoven moved to Vienna, Austria, where he studied with Joseph Haydn (1732-1809).

As Beethoven grew older, his hearing began to deteriorate. He eventually became completely deaf. When his ninth symphony was first performed, he had to be turned around to see the audience applauding, because he could not hear their loud cheers.

Beethoven wrote many works throughout his life. Some of these include his famous **Fur Elise**, **Moonlight Sonata**, his **Nine Symphonies**, and many **string quartets**. This is only a fraction of the work that Beethoven completed in his lifetime. Beethoven died in 1827.

Questions (Not all of the answers may be found above)

- 1) What is a composer?
- 2) What year was Beethoven Born? What Year did he die?
- 3) Was Beethoven alive during the American Revolution? During the Civil War?
- 4) Name two famous works Beethoven wrote
- 5) What country was Beethoven from?
- 6) What instruments could Beethoven play?

ESSAY: On the Back of this sheet, write a paragraph on the following topic:

Beethoven went deaf a long time before he stopped writing music. How do you think he was able to continue writing music when he could not hear what he was writing? How do you feel about Beethoven's ability to write music when deaf?