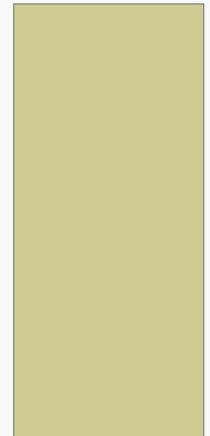


LUDVIG VAN
BEETHOVEN



LUDVIG VAN BEETHOVEN

(1770-1827)

- **AGE of REVOLUTION and RADICALIZATION**
 - The “ENLIGHTENMENT”
 - AMERICAN REVOLUTION (1775-1783)
 - FRENCH REVOLUTION (1789-1799)
- **Beethoven a Musical Revolutionary**
 - Believed music did more than “move and please” us
 - Music had power to **transform** and “**lift mankind to the level of the gods.**”

LUDVIG VAN BEETHOVEN

(1770-1827)

- **BEETHOVEN'S PIANOS**

- Beethoven's primary instrument was the **pianoforte**
- The pianoforte was invented in around 1700 by **Bartolomeo Cristofori**
- The pianoforte change quite a bit during Beethoven's lifetime, and there were **many regional styles** of piano construction

LUDVIG VAN BEETHOVEN

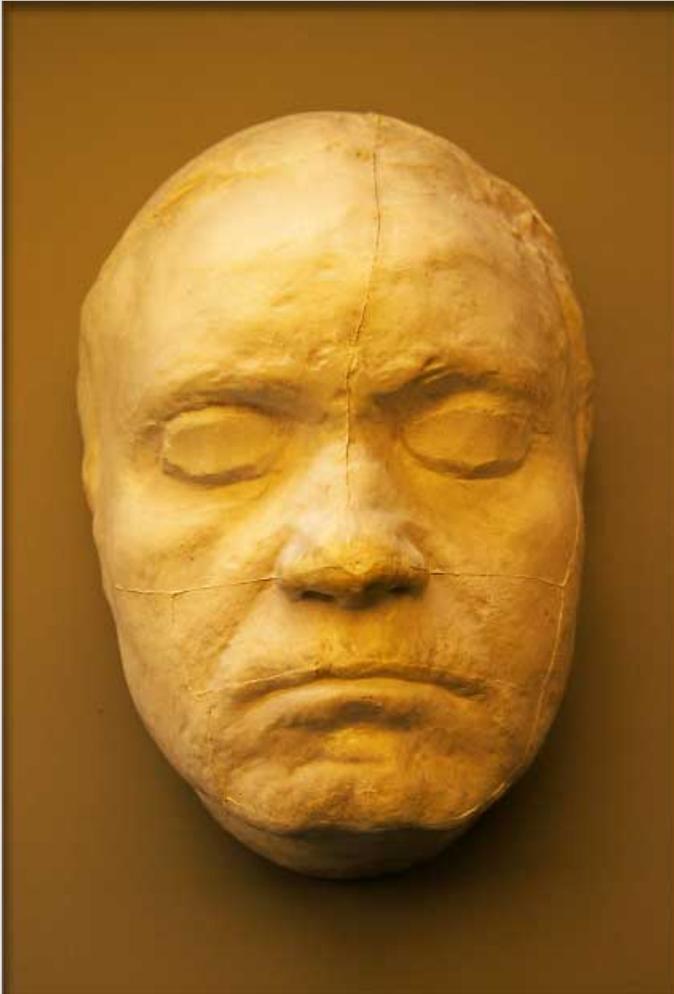
(1770-1827)

- **BEETHOVEN'S PIANOS**

- There are three examples of Beethoven-era pianos in the Beethoven Center
- Replica of a **1795 Dulcken** Fortepiano
 - Has “knee pedals” that include a damper and moderator
- **1823 Broadwood** & Sons Grand Fortepiano
 - Has two pedals that include a damper and an *una corda* pedal
- **1827 Jakesch** Fortepiano
 - Has six (!) pedals, including a damper, single and double moderators, *una corda*, bassoon, and Turkish pedals

LUDVIG VAN BEETHOVEN

(1770-1827)



- **BEETHOVEN'S LIFE MASK**
 - The Beethoven Center also has a bronze copy of Beethoven's "**life mask**," a plaster cast done of Beethoven's face done in 1812.
 - (In this version you can see the seams of the original plaster cast)
 - The Center's version is mounted at **Beethoven's height: 5' 4"**.

LUDVIG VAN BEETHOVEN

(1770-1827)

- **5 TRAGEDIES of BEETHOVEN'S LIFE**

- **1. ALCOHOLISM**

- Grandmother and father were alcoholics, and these relationships affected Beethoven's personality.

LUDVIG VAN BEETHOVEN

(1770-1827)

- **5 TRAGEDIES** of **BEETHOVEN'S LIFE**

- **2. DEAFNESS**

- Beethoven begins to lose hearing in 1802 and is completely deaf by 1814.
- Considers suicide, but realizes he has more music to compose
- Writes a **letter** (undelivered) to his brothers, which is now known as the ***Heiligenstadt Testament***.

LUDVIG VAN BEETHOVEN

(1770-1827)

- “Now for six years I have been a hopeless case, aggravated by senseless physicians, cheated year after year in the hope of improvement, finally compelled to face the prospect of a lasting malady (whose cure will take years, or, perhaps, be impossible)”
- How could I possibly admit such an **infirmity in the one sense which should have been more perfect in me than in others**, a sense which I once possessed in highest perfection, a perfection such as few surely in my profession enjoy or have enjoyed—O, I cannot do it”

LUDVIG VAN BEETHOVEN

(1770-1827)

- “I would have put an end to my life—**only art withheld me**, ah it seemed impossible to leave the world **until I had produced all that I felt called upon me to produce**, and so I endured this wretched existence...”

LUDVIG VAN BEETHOVEN

(1770-1827)

- **5 TRAGEDIES** of **BEETHOVEN'S LIFE**

- **3. LOVE . . . NOT**

- Beethoven never has a happy love relationship. Falls in love with **Jozefina Brunsvik**, widow of Joseph, Count Deym. He proposed, but she turns him down to protect the aristocratic and guardianship of her four children.
- Beethoven never marries.

Jozefina von Brunsvik
(1779-1821)



LUDVIG VAN BEETHOVEN

(1770-1827)

- **5 TRAGEDIES** of BEETHOVEN'S LIFE

- **4. FATHERHOOD**

- In 1815, Beethoven's brother Carl died, leaving Beethoven co-guardian of his **nine-year-old nephew Karl van Beethoven** with his sister-in-law Johanna
- Beethoven fights for sole guardianship of the young Karl during the years 1815-1820
- Eventually wins sole guardianship, but turns out to be a miserable father figure.
- Karl **attempts suicide** in 1826 in the Rauhenstein ruins, one of Beethoven's favorite places

Karl van Beethoven
(1806-1858)



Engraving of the ruins of **Rauenstein castle**



LUDVIG VAN BEETHOVEN

(1770-1827)

- **5 TRAGEDIES of BEETHOVEN'S LIFE**

- **5. END of LIFE ILLNESSES**

- At the end of his life, Beethoven suffered from many illnesses including **liver and kidney damage**, and including **dropsy** (a buildup of fluid in the tissues) that resulted in abdominal swelling
- Beethoven's doctors drained the swelling, but used medicine containing **lead** that might have contribute to his death.
- Several people were allowed to take clippings of **Beethoven's hair** as a memento—a common practice in the nineteenth century.

LUDVIG VAN BEETHOVEN

(1770-1827)

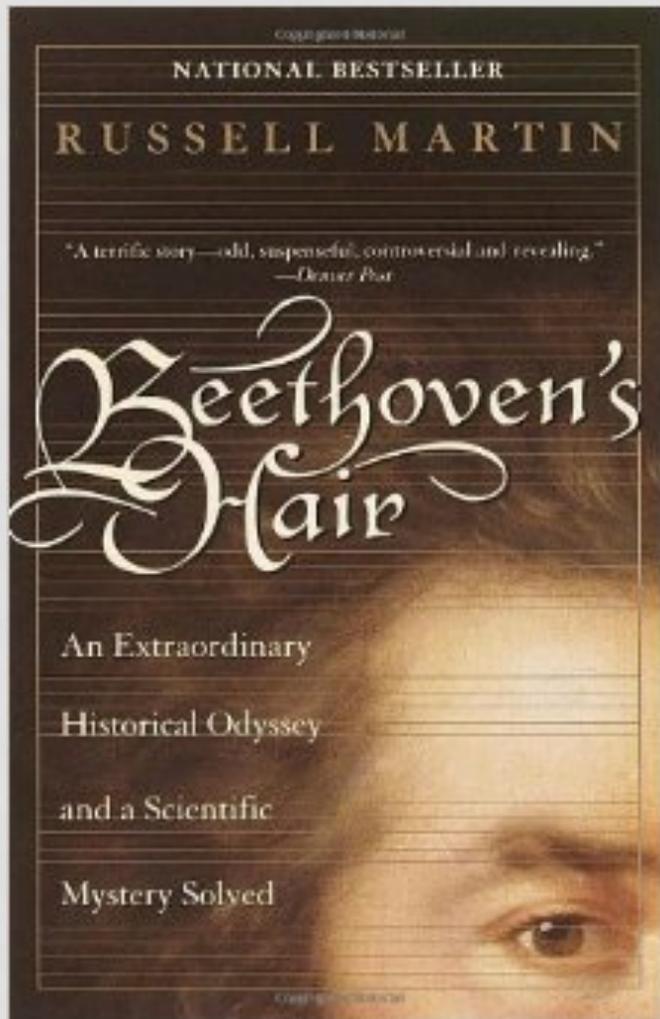
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GUEVARA LOCK OF HAIR



Located in The Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies at SJSU

LUDVIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)



- **Beethoven's hair** has been tested to investigate his health and the reasons for his illnesses and death.
- You can read more about this in Russell Martin's book ***Beethoven's Hair***.