



Learning with Ludwig

Eight Lessons in Music Theory from Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy'

By Matthew Brown

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Explores how Beethoven's iconic "Ode to Joy" theme and the finale of his Ninth Symphony encapsulate a masterclass in tonal composition, grounded in his rigorous training and deep theoretical knowledge

Symphony reveals about the mechanics of tonal composition. The book explains how the finale of the Ninth Symphony offers a crash course in music theory made possible by Beethoven's extensive training with Neefe, Haydn, Albrechtsberger, and others, and his enormous library of theory treatises, by the likes of Fux, C. P. E. Bach, Riepel, and Koch. That course covers everything from the basics of tonal voice leading and motivic development to advanced topics such as double counterpoint, canon, and ars combinatoria. The book also draws on details from his own students such as Ries and Czerny.

Readership

This book is intended for people who enjoy classical music and who would like to understand more about the technical aspects of Beethoven's most iconic score. The book will interest those who are specifically interested in Beethoven, his training, and his knowledge of music theory.

Key selling points

The book offers a comprehensive overview of one of the most famous pieces of music ever written

The book combines recent historical research about the genesis of the Ninth Symphony with a detailed analysis of the finished score. The book not only addresses a wide range of analytical and theoretical issues, but it also highlights Beethoven's extensive knowledge of music theory and draws on a wide variety of historical and contemporary sources.

The book relates those analytical and theoretical issues to broader debates about the origins of music, the relationship between music and language, and the psychology of learning.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Born in London, **Matthew Brown** is a British American musicologist who specializes in tonal theory and the music of Claude Debussy. He is currently Professor of Music Theory at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY.

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