Ludwig van Beethoven  
   
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Ludwig van Beethoven (baptised 17 December 1770 – 26 March 1827) was a German composer and  
pianist. One of the most revered figures in the history of Western music, his works rank among the  
most performed of the classical music repertoire and span the transition from the Classical period to the  
Romantic era. Beethoven's early period, during which he forged his craft, is typically considered to have  
lasted until 1802. From 1802 to around 1812, his middl