

Differences Between Beethoven's Symphony Composing Characteristics With 18th-Century Symphony Music

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Received: August 5, 2022

Accepted: August 27, 2022

Online Published: August 29, 2022

doi:10.20849/ajsss.v7i8.1266

URL: <https://doi.org/10.20849/ajsss.v7i8.1266>

Abstract

Compared with Mozart whose deeply influenced by J.S Bach's music interpreted the characteristics of music, as "men serve god". Except for the strong religious elements, both Haydn and Mozart had experiences employed as court musicians making their music more ingratiate the royalties which is so much different from Beethoven's music realism. "Every rational person can advance society, and a person of genius can unhinge the world." Fully expressed the enlightenment elements in his music, especially after the French revolution.

Keywords: Beethoven symphony, Mozart, Haydn, symphony no.5

According to Maestro Guerrero, "how to listen to the classical music: Beethoven symphony" seminar's main idea of Beethoven's symphony no.5 compared the stylistic characteristics of Haydn and Beethoven, who are representative of symphonic composition developing history. Using Beethoven's Fifth Symphony as an example throughout the seminar, the host introduced the structure and the greatness of Beethoven's compositions by listening to the four complete movements of Symphony No.5. Maestro Guerrero believes Beethoven composed the greatest symphony in history by emphasizing he changed the proportion of the introduction part in the whole symphony structure in his symphony no.5 (Maestro Guerrero, 2011), undoubtedly Beethoven's reformation as an innovative force pushed the symphony development in the 18th century. "Compared with Mozart and Haydn, Beethoven's composition, he (Beethoven) was breaking rules at that time, canceled parts of slow movement and moving directly forward to the fast movements. Only used two notes as an introduction "said Guerrero (Maestro Guerrero, 2011) (Note 1). This article analyzed the end of 18th-early 19th background and other aspects reasons are more specifically explain the opinion mentioned as "Beethoven's symphony is the greatest" in the seminar, second, evidenced and argued the opinion and exciting questions that "whether the repeat part is essential during the orchestra performance?"

One essential determining factor talking about the "greatest symphony" is Beethoven's composition compared with Mozart and Haydn qualified the enlightenment and romanticism as two distinct periods. Compared with Mozart whose deeply influenced by J.S Bach's music, followed the idea of "men serve god". Except for the strong religious elements, both Haydn and Mozart had experiences employed as court musicians making their music more ingratiate the royalties which is so much different from the realistic factors in Beethoven's music. "Every rational person can advance society, and a person of genius can unhinge the world" (Lockwood, Lewis, 2015) fully expressed the enlightenment elements in his music, especially after the French revolution. Symphony 5 was composed during 1804- 1808, as the edges of early romanticism and late classicism. Beethoven's symphony 5 has big innovations which can be witnessed as compared with the trends of introduction composing, characteristics tended to be fancy and lengthy in the 18th, and the distinctive four notes, the minor third G-E, F-D played by the French horn, the short and aggressive phrase to start the beginning were bold and breaking rules Just like "fate" the name which also gives expression to under the background that exists conflicts and limitations between people's fancy wishes to the real situations (Michael Steinberg, 2010), interpret the Beethoven's romanticism. Since the orchestration of the first movement cadenza created the "disrupt and integrates" sound effect, "This paradoxical multiplicity of function is completely characteristic of Beethoven (Michael Steinberg, 2010)." (Note 2) Even though during the seminar, brought up that Beethoven's composition was far from the world of both Haydn and Mozart. A lot of traces of inspiration and references from these two masters still can be found in Beethoven's works like the first symphony, the opening Adagio, "he followed Haydn's practice of compressing many dramatic events into few notes" or like he used two introductions and

same key of D major like Mozart for his Prague Symphony, but not blindly, “B-flat major into dramatic arrival on D minor, change both order and proportion” (Fanning, D., 2011). Moreover, as his symphony no. 1 starts with a pair of question-answer chords which usually ends up a piece, the similar humor of expression shows up in Haydn’s string quartets (Will, Richard, 2008). (Note 3) So as the seminar speaker described that the greatest symphony of all time was composed by Beethoven, not only just because of his talent and brand innovations as the bridge between two periods but also because the references to great composers’ works inspired him.

Beethoven’s composing style and skills learned from Haydn and Mozart scores were reasonably referred to in the seminar. However, according to the frequently appeared repeat parts, The seminar mentioned the importance of repeat scherzo during the orchestra performance and raged on those conductors who ignored that. About this question of whether it is necessary to do the repeat every time one of the possible is that the repeating of the scherzo is vital since it is based on the original plan of Beethoven “the first repetition of the scherzo was to be identical with the original statement, the second was to introduce the spooky, attenuated variant that leads to the finale” (Will, Richard, 2008) (Note 4) and the exposition part will strengthen the grand music environment but also possible as ‘not repeat’ “This version make the dramatic progress tighter.” but more reliable explanations is the version of 1809 as the premiere performance which omits the extra repeat parts, Beethoven himself did not deny this (Boyd, Earl, 1951). So ‘not repeat’ versions were all imperfect ways during the performance and were too biased to be commended by the speaker of the seminar.

From all I talked about above, through symphony no.5 commended that Beethoven’s symphony composition was ‘unbeatable’ does make sense. 10 variations appeared throughout the symphony no.5 however it has big differences from the variations sets by Haydn. Boldly creating new music elements during the 18th was tough. But from an overall view, the expression of music nature were different between Beethoven and Mozart, Haydn. Both as followed the rational German music composing style, Mozart’s rational tend to be understand as existence is reasonable so in his works shows the fancy, pure side of music while Beethoven’s music rational reflected in the awaken people rights under the historical background. So this is meaningless and less rigorous that Maestro Guerrero commend “beatable or not”. It is more persuaded to discuss Beethoven’s symphony further values influenced the generation after generation. For example, Beethoven’s symphony creation has deep influences on famous composers like Schumann, and Schubert, “Beethoven’s invention here of a path from strife to triumph became a model for symphonic writing to the present day” (Will, Richard, 2008) (Note 5) which is also as the central idea of symphony 5 writing. Besides the main limitations of the topic ‘repeat or not’ suggestions during the seminar are without being based on meticulous research.

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Notes

- Note 1. Maestro Guerrero, (2011). *how to listen to the classical music: Beethoven symphony*, held Jan. 20, 2011, *The Division of Public Affairs sponsors*, 43, 08.
- Note 2. Michael Steinberg. (2010). The Symphony: A Listener’s Guide. *Fourth Genre: Explorations In Nonfiction*, 12 (2), 185.
- Note 3. Will, Richard. (2008). *The Characteristic Symphony in the Age Of Haydn And Beethoven*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 156-188.
- Note 4. Will, Richard. (2008). *The Characteristic Symphony in the Age Of Haydn And Beethoven*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 163-167.

Note 5. Will, Richard. (2008). *The Characteristic Symphony In The Age Of Haydn And Beethoven*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 213.

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