

Ludwig van Beethoven (17 December 1770 – 26 March 1827) was a German composer and pianist. The crucial figure in the transition between the Classical and Romantic eras in Western art music, he remains one of the most famous and influential composers of all time. Born in Bonn, then the capital of the Electorate of Cologne and part of the Holy Roman Empire, Beethoven moved to Vienna in his early 20s, studying with Joseph Haydn and quickly gaining a reputation as a virtuoso pianist. His hearing began to deteriorate in the late 1790s, yet he continued to compose, conduct, and perform, even after becoming completely deaf.

Piano Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13, commonly known as Sonata Pathétique, was written in 1798 when the composer was 27 years old, and was published in 1799. Beethoven dedicated the work to his friend Prince Karl von Lichnowsky. Although commonly thought to be one of the few works to be named by the composer himself, it was actually named Grande sonate pathétique (to Beethoven's liking) by the publisher, who was impressed by the sonata's tragic sonorities. The second movement, the Adagio cantabile, was the theme song for the long-running radio show "Adventures in Good Music" hosted by Karl Haas.

Dr. Michael Pratt has degrees in music education and music composition from The University of Toledo, The University of Michigan, and Boston University. He studied composition with Pulitzer Prize winning composers Ross Lee Finney and Leslie Bassett at The University of Michigan, and taught music in the public schools for many years in Michigan.

He has sung with The Toledo Choral Society, Toledo Symphony Chorale, Opera!Lenawee, and The University Musical Society Choral Union of The University of Michigan with whom he has performed with The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The San Francisco Symphony, The Kirov Orchestra, The Russian National Orchestra, The Ann Arbor Symphony, The Lansing Symphony, The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Toledo Symphony, The Birmingham Symphony, The Gabrieli Consort, and The Tallis Scholars.

He has played tuba with The Toledo Symphony, Toledo Concert Band, Toledo Opera, University of Toledo Faculty Brass Quintet, Adrian Chamber Brass, Adrian College Faculty Brass Quintet, The Crosswell Opera House, The Adrian Symphony Orchestra and The Adrian City Band.

He has performed with many notable conductors, including, Valery Gergiev, Michael Tilson Thomas, Neeme Jarve, Mikhail Pletnev, Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, Leonard Slatkin, John Adams, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Paul McCreech, Peter Phillips, Catherine Comet, Eric Kunzel, Margaret Hillis, Martin Katz, and John Finley Williamson.

Michael Pratt is a member of ASCAP.

Adagio Cantabile

Ludwig van Beethoven

Duration 4:00

from *Piano Sonata No. 8, Op. 13 (Pathétique)*

Arr. by Michael Pratt
for Brass Septet

Adagio cantabile ♩ = 72

The musical score is arranged for a Brass Septet and consists of two systems of staves. The first system includes parts for Trumpet in B♭ 1, Trumpet in B♭ 2, Trumpet in B♭ 3, Horn in F, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba. The second system includes parts for B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, B♭ Tpt. 3, Horn (Hn.), Trombone (Tbn.), Euphonium (Euph.), and Tuba. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B♭, E♭, A♭). The tempo is Adagio cantabile at 72 beats per minute. The score features various dynamics including *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). There are several measures with rests for the trumpets and horns, and some measures with triplets. The score is numbered with measure numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11. A circled '1' is placed above measure 9.