

LESSON TASK

Materials needed:

Pdf excerpts from the Symphony as provided

Play opening of first movement <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKI4T5BnhOA>

Play opening of third movement <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSb1GLSTr6s>

Motif hunting!

Choose a page or several pages from those given in the resources and ask students to put a ring around anything they think relates to the 4-note motif.

[Moral – the success of a good composition usually depends on how unified it is, so having a motif like Beethoven's one is a way of doing this.]

Extension headings below

Melody

What happens to the motif melodically?

(He sometimes changes the interval between the first three notes and the fourth one)

How else does he change the melodic shape?

(It's not always three repeated pitches - bar 14 – and sometimes it rises – e.g. bar 15)

Rhythm

Does Beethoven change the rhythm of the motif?

(There is no change in the first movement but refer to other movements to show how it fits with other time signatures and moods. Rhythm is the dominant element of the motif)

Harmony

What is the harmony of the loud opening?

(Unison – no chords in bars 1-5)

How does Beethoven use the motif to build up the chord in the quiet section that follows?

(He prefaces harmony notes in the upper strings with the motif – bar 6 onwards)

Texture

Find examples of monophony, polyphony and homophony in the opening bars:

Monophony	Bars 1-5	Unison/all same note
Polyphony	Bars 6-17	Imitation
Homophony	Bars 18-21	Chordal