

This snippet from Beethoven's Ode to Joy is from the fourth movement. Johanna and I love the "feel" of the music—it makes us happy and hopeful. Doing some investigation, I found that this fourth movement was the first time he used voices in a symphony, using the words from Schiller's poem *An die Freude*. (Ode to Joy). The Ode is a call to peace and brotherhood and to confident belief in a benevolent higher power.

It is a composition to create unity where there is division. I read that the snippet here can be understood as two questions and then an answer to each

First question is the first 8 notes, ? Are you collapsing, millions?

and then an answer; next 7) Seek him above the starry canopy!

Second Question: Do you sense the creator, world?

Answer Above stars must He dwell

That is the snippet played here:

As context, Beethoven (Schiller) writes

O friends, not these tones!

But let's strike up more agreeable ones,

And more joyful.

Joy!

Joy!

Joy, beautiful spark of Divinity,

Daughter of Elysium,

We enter, drunk with fire,

Heavenly one, thy sanctuary!

Thy magic binds again

What custom strictly divided;

All people become brothers,

Where thy gentle wing abides.

*What I'd say (Nov, 2024, is from your lips to God's ear. May it be so. Keep the faith and optimism and joy! :)*

*Johanna comment:*

So interesting, thank you for including me in this exchange. I think I vaguely knew that Ode to Joy was based on a poem, but I didn't know the author and had no idea about the content of the poem. (I did know that this was the first time Beethoven incorporated voices in a symphony – indeed, I think it was rare for anyone to do so prior to his groundbreaking composition). Of course, I love the idea of unity, love and trust in God. I also had zero idea about a kind of question-and-answer musical exchange – amazing! – although listening to the music now I kind of get it. I especially love the second question – Do you sense the Creator, world? – because I think it is so easy to NOT sense God, but God is there, beyond the starry skies, in the deepest seas, in the smallest flower, embedded in the hearts of all God's creations. Wow, so much here I didn't realize. I will enjoy this beautiful music a lot more now that I know this context. Love, J/Grandma