Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and the Invention of "Classical" Music
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Abstract
"Da-da-da daaaaa." The first four notes of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony are instantly recognizable, even when written out as a series of "das" in a course description two hundred and eleven years after its 1808 premiere. Why has this composition had such staying power? What makes it so effective? And how it did change our perception of "classical music" forever? These are some the questions our micro-seminar will attempt to answer, through close study of the structure of the symphony, consideration of its complex legacy, and appraisal of the stormy personal life that arguably made Beethoven the first-ever rock star.

Faculty Biography