

Beethoven Manuscript Sold at Auction



A 179-year-old **manuscript** by Ludwig van Beethoven, one of the world's greatest **composers**, was sold at an **auction** in England on December 1.

A librarian in Pennsylvania found the manuscript this summer. The manuscript was last seen in public when it was listed in a German auction catalog in 1890. At that time, it was sold to a man in the United States. No one is exactly sure how the manuscript wound up in the library.

The manuscript is for a classical piece of music called "Gross Fugue." Historians are particularly excited about finding this manuscript because Beethoven wrote notes and made changes all over the 80-page document. Before the auction, it was believed the manuscript might be sold for between \$1.7 and \$2.6 million.

Music historians think Beethoven wrote the manuscript in 1827, a few months before he died. Beethoven wrote many of the most well known compositions for orchestras, pianos, and stringed instruments. He even composed music after he became deaf!

NEWS WORD BOX

auction manuscript
compose fugue

MORE FACTS ABOUT LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

- It is believed that Beethoven was born in December 1770. He began playing in public when he was 7 years old. He published his first musical compositions when he was 10.
- Beethoven began to lose his hearing when he was about 28, yet he continued to compose music when he was deaf.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

If you were able to meet and talk with Beethoven, what would you ask him about his life?