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## Beethoven: The Pastoral Symphony (Cambridge Music Handbooks)

*David Wyn Jones*

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Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony is in many ways his most startlingly original. It has a programmatic content, it is in

five movements, and its mood is quite different from the usual barnstorming image of the composer. Why did he want to compose such a work? Why did it take him five years to realize his vision? What was he hoping to communicate? How did he achieve it? Finally, how was the work received? David Wyn Jones addresses all these vital questions in a fascinating account of this popular work and the context in which it was written.

'... his guide is eloquent in matters of common sense, even as it resists insight by music analysis.... handbooks are not meant to be difficult affairs; they make their subjects accessible by being themselves accessibly written and attractively presented. Weather permitting, David Wyn Jones's Pastoral Symphony will be as readable on a picnic bench as at a library desk.' William Drabkin, *The Times Literary Supplement* From the Back Cover Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony is in many ways his most startlingly original. It has a programmatic content, it is in five movements rather than the normal four, and its mood is quite different from the usual barnstorming image of the composer.