Two Tempestuous Classics: Shakespeare and Beethoven

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Who is Shakespeare?

- Born in Stratford
- Husband and father
- London playwright

http://www.vanishingshakespeare.org/
“...Shakespeare himself must have been conscious that his plays possessed a charm that made him a magician among writers” (Wright and Lamar x).
Elements of Utopia

- Physical
- Political
- Spiritual
“The settings of [Shakespeare’s] plays...[are]...imaginative displacements into alternative worlds that remain strangely familiar” (Abrams 496).

Gonzalo:
“Though this island seem to be desert/... Uninhabitable and almost inaccessible/... The air breathes upon us here most sweetly” (Shakespeare II, i, 37-49).
Political

“Shakespeare mutes the normally exciting dramatic material. . . . The main action of The Tempest becomes Prospero’s managing things so that the other characters fail to act out their desires” (Cantor 68).

• Prospero represents rightful justice

http://anemone-heather.blogspot.com/
Shakespeare is dealing now in spiritual rather than social transformations, and his dramatic design is an unfolding of a preconception—the ‘project’ to which Prospero refers, whose end is contrition and then reconciliation . . .” (Rockett 77).

Antonio:

“And look how well my garments sit upon me/ . . . My brother’s servants/ were then my fellows; now they are my men” (Shakespeare II, i, 12-14).
Spirituality and Music

“By music’s power [Prospero] is able to resolve his problems one by one and harmony is restored” (Cutts 196).
Who is Beethoven?
- Lived 1770-1827
- World affairs
- Fell deaf, 30 yrs. old

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Beethoven.jpg
“... the designation ‘Tempest’ has become firmly rooted in the professional culture as the nickname for Op. 31, No. 2” (Gordon 13).
Sonata No. 17 in D Minor Op. 31, No.2

Second Movement, Allegretto


THANK YOU

Please save questions until piano performance is complete.