



YouTube channel **Classics Explained** releases Beethoven 9th animation **"A message to humanity"** to record views



**Now available to watch:
Beethoven 9th Symphony**

*"The channel is a gem."
"Your video made me cry."
"Teared up, goosebumps man."*

**Next up: April
Ravel's Bolero**

Free to view on [YouTube](#)
plus additional content available to subscribers on Patreon

Classics Explained releases a new animation on Beethoven's 9th Symphony - "A message to humanity" - free to view on YouTube. Within the first 3 days, the cartoon has already racked up 62,000 views, catching on faster than any of its previous 21 videos. Their current catalogue has attracted **more than 3 million views** and a devoted following from 70,000 subscribers, who eagerly await the next installments.

Classics Explained recently relaunched with a new series of animated shorts, free to view. Started during the pandemic by Ben Levy, **Classics Explained** quickly found a foothold with a **surprisingly youthful audience – the 18 to 34-**



year-olds, many of whom had never previously engaged in classical music. Tailored to viewers' requests, Classics Explained responds to this youthful market, giving them a new entry into classical music and feeding a previously unacknowledged hunger to engage in opera and symphonic repertoire. Next up will be Ravel's *Bolero*.

Ben Levy commented:

"We are thrilled to have released our video on Beethoven's Symphony of Symphonies: the monumental 9th. It was a great challenge to write and present; how does one even begin to explain a work so wondrous and full of innovation and beauty? Beethoven was a reclusive older man when he wrote the symphony, many years after his previous one. He was embittered by the state of modern music and, as is well known, struggling with his profound deafness. What the animation conveys is his passage from darkness to light, the journey from silence to sound to music, from angry old man cooped up in his bedraggled, messy squat to celebrated artist twizzling the decks at a debauched East German nightclub. Simon Rattle's recording with the Berlin Philharmonic, Annette Dasch, Eva Vogel, Christian Elsner and Dimitry Ivashchenko is just the best at capturing Beethoven's grandiose vision. We are thrilled by the outpouring of emotional responses from our viewers who have been particularly moved by Beethoven's inner struggles."

Classics Explained

Shedding all jargon and pretention often associated with the appreciation of classical music, Classics Explained provides fast-paced video guides for the uninitiated (and also converts) eager to explore the personal and socio-political backstories to great pieces of music, often with a satirical spin. In a category of "edutainment" alongside *Horrible Histories*, these are witty, sophisticated shorts, that demystify the genre with a healthy dose of irreverence.

Launched by Benjamin Levy 3 years ago, the shorts have gradually grown in length from 5 minutes to 20 minutes, with additional separate mini-documentaries of musical analysis from Levy demonstrating on the piano on request from viewers.

As Levy explains,

"We're a YouTube channel that digs into the stories behind the great works of classical music, and explores what inspired the composers to greatness. Whether it's a tumultuous love life, political turmoil or simply a tight deadline, the one thing they all have in common is an all-too-relatable humanity. These stories free this brilliant music from stuffy, unapproachable academic language and puts it back where it is supposed to be: in our life."

So far, the 22 episodes have covered amongst others Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No.2, Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, Bizet's *Carmen*, Saint-Saëns's *Carnival of the Animals*, Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, Prokofiev's *Romeo & Juliet*, Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, Beethoven's 9th Symphony, Mozart's *Magic Flute* and more.



Comments from the viewers include:

"I love you ClassicsExplained! Your content is among my favorite on YouTube! I'd love to see a video on the firebird sometime! please keep up the fantastic work!"

"Please please please NEVER stop making these videos"

"I'm in love with this channel.....You never cease to cheer me up"

"You've treated the genuine sadness of Rachmaninov's story respectfully whilst still incorporating a good level of comedy. This may be my new favourite episode"

"Thank you so much! Your channel has opened the doors to classical music for me. Now rarely a day goes by without some classics."
Saint-Saens

"This was very informative and the HILARIOUS beginning is a bonus! Still chuckling. I'm subscribing."

"I'm stoked. I've been binge watching this series with my 4-year-old daughter."



Benjamin Levy

Based in London, UK, Benjamin Levy's prodigious curiosity for art, music and culture has led him into a number of different projects. He has contributed to widely-published exhibition catalogues for the V&A and other institutions, has



written several books, and as a consulting expert, has researched and written on everything from the social history of 20th Century London to Russian stage design for an auction house. He is the creator, researcher, writer, and voice for Classics Explained.

Back Catalogue: unmissable Classics Explained titles

[Sometimes the worst behaviour has the best soundtrack](#)
[1924 the year Jazz crashed Classical Music's Party](#)
[Why would a composer cancel his own music?](#)
[Medieval Wheel of Fortune](#)
[From misery to melody](#)
[Competition solution revealed](#)
[How Vivaldi took the world by storm](#)
[The aria so good we shared it with aliens](#)
[Ted Talks, Thus spoke Zarathustra](#)
[From Russia with Love, via Italy](#)
[The soundtrack to One Thousand and One Nights](#)
[Freaky experiment shocks Paris](#)

For more information on any of the above, please contact

Nicky Thomas Media

Unit 12 The Stableyard, Broomgrove Road, London SW9 9TL
+44 (0)20 3714 7594 | +44 (0)7768 566 530

info@nickythomasmedia.com

www.nickythomasmedia.com