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Well hey there! Welcome to episode 11 of Busy Kids Love Music, an educational podcast for music-loving families. I'm Carly Seifert, the creator of Busy Kids Do Piano, and I'm thrilled that you're joining me today. A quick note before we get started -- I open up my online piano lesson program for what I call "public enrollment" a few times a year, and we are currently in a public enrollment period this week (through January 17th). If you are considering piano lessons, check out my program for kids at busykidsdopiano.com and my program for adults at busymomspiano.com before January 17th.

Today we are talking about the symphony. Symphony might be a word that you've heard a lot before, but maybe you're not exactly sure what it is, so let's start by defining it. Symphony comes from the Greek words "sym" which means together and "phone" which means, sound. A symphony is a piece of music written for an orchestra to play. They are usually long pieces of music. Some pieces of music are written for small orchestras and some are written for large orchestras. A large orchestra -- called a symphony orchestra -- is needed in order to play a symphony. The symphony orchestra includes wind, string, brass and percussion instruments and usually consists of 40 or more players.

Franz Joseph Haydn, an Austrian composer from the Classical Period of music, is known as the Father of the Symphony. He is credited for coming up with the "form" of the symphony -- think of it as the way a symphony is organized. Here's how Haydn's symphonic form goes. The symphony is divided into 4 different parts, which we call movements. Each movement has a little bit of a different style, but it is all part of the same big idea -- the symphony. In Haydn's symphonic form, the first movement of a symphony was usually fast and lively, with two musical themes or melodies. Listen to a bit of the first movement from Haydn's Symphony No. 45 in F# Minor (called the "Farewell" Symphony).

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The second movement of a symphony is typically slower than the first. Think of it as a time to relax after the excitement of the first movement! Listen to a bit of the 2nd movement from Haydn's Farewell Symphony and notice how the tempo -- the speed of the piece -- is slower than the movement you just heard.

The third movement of a symphony is often dance like and has a lighthearted feel to it.

The fourth movement of a symphony is the finale. It's often fast and furious and a chance to really show off the orchestra.

Haydn might be known as the Father of the Symphony -- and he did write over a hundred symphonies in his lifetime -- but composer Ludwig Van Beethoven wrote some of the most groundbreaking and well known symphonies.

The piece you are listening to now is one of the most famous pieces of classical music ever: Beethoven's 5th Symphony. Beethoven wrote just nine symphonies in all, but they changed the way the symphony sounded. In our next episode, we are going to take a closer look at Beethoven's nine symphonies.

Many composers have written iconic symphonies, and you can get a taste of some of these by downloading this episode's listening calendar, which can be found at busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/11.

If you enjoyed today's episode, please be sure to rate and review our podcast on iTunes. Thank you so much for joining me today, and I look forward to seeing you again in 2 weeks for our study of Beethoven's symphonies on the Busy Kids Love Music Podcast!