

Music Speaks to the Heart

by Liz Gibbons

Last week I saw a YouTube video replay of a recording of Ode to Joy from Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. It was recorded in a village square, *placa de Sant Roc*, in Sabadell, Spain. Even though I have seen it before it touched me deeply. A lone double bass player appeared and began playing Ode to Joy. Shortly, a woman with a cello sat down in a nearby chair and began to play with him. Then a bassoonist and two violinists joined them. In rapid succession more violinists and horn players appeared. Two bass drums were rolled into the square. The orchestra conductor sauntered up from the crowd and began conducting the orchestra as the choir members assembled and joined in with song. The people in the square stopped and were entranced as this drama unfolded. A young girl, perhaps six or seven years old, climbed up a lamp post, and with one arm swaying, pretended she was leading the orchestra. Children in the square danced in rhythm to the music. I was filled with deep emotion and tears welled up in my eyes. I thought of how the beauty of music can bring people together regardless of age, race, religion, or cultural background. Everyone there was united in the experience. What power beautiful music can have. In this chaotic world I pondered if music could be used to help to bring us all together again.