



Both hands play exactly the same thing, one octave apart, which is why it sounds enormous for how few notes it is. Three flats at the start of the line mean B, E and A are black keys — but this piece only ever needs one of them, the E flat under finger 3.

Measure 1: G G G (finger 5, 1, 2)
Measure 2: E $\flat$ (finger 3, bird's-eye mark)
Measure 3: F F F (finger 4, 2, 4)
Measure 4: D (finger 2, bird's-eye mark)
Measure 5: G G G (finger 5, 1, 2)
Measure 6: E $\flat$ (finger 3, bird's-eye mark)
Measure 7: F F F (finger 4, 2, 4)
Measure 8: D (finger 2, bird's-eye mark)
Measure 9: G G G C (finger 5, 1, 2, 5)

Playing it

- **Set both hands first.** Right hand: thumb on middle C, finger 3 on the black key E flat, finger 5 on G. Left hand: little finger on the C below, finger 3 on its E flat, thumb on G. The shape is the same in both hands.
- **The rest matters.** Each line starts with a short silence. Count "rest-2-3-4" in your head, or the three quick notes arrive early and the joke is gone.
- **Hold the long notes.** The bird's-eye mark over the E flat and the D means "stay here as long as you like". Count four slowly, listen to it fade, then go on.
- **Two of these lines are ours, not Beethoven's.** He plays the opening once and then carries on for another half hour; here the second line repeats the first, so you get two goes at it, and the last line (G G G, C) is ours, so the page finishes at home.