

Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and the Ecozoic

Tim Toben

Editor's Note: In the evening of the second day of the Colloquium, participants gathered for a multi-media presentation. A recording of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony was played while Tim Toben's poem "Beethoven's 9th Symphony and the Ecozoic" was read. In the poem:

The Ecozoic begins in the fourth movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, when the first three movements collide and the orchestra nearly disintegrates. It is the moment in the Universe Story when the fifth global force, the humanosphere, nearly destroys the symphony of life and then miraculously transforms it. At that instant, something happens that had never happened before in a symphony. A human voice rings out:

*O Freunde, nicht diese Töne!
Sondern laßt uns angenehmere anstimmen,
und freudenvollere.
Freude! Freude!*

*Oh friends, silence these sounds!
Rather, let us sing more joyous songs
Full of ever growing cheer
Joy! Joy!*

This poem was previously published in *The Ecozoic* 3 (2013):136-42. Please contact the Center for Ecozoic Societies for a copy of this poem.