PREFACE xi
PROLOGUE xiii

CHAPTER ONE

THE SPANIARD

In which a momentous life begins

CHAPTER TWO

THE RIGHT TEACHER
This boy could become 'a second Mozart'
23

CHAPTER THREE
MEETING MOZART
Watch out for that boy
43

CHAPTER FOUR
WORD SPREADS
Young Beethoven as kitchen scullion
63

#### CHAPTER FIVE

IMPRESSING THE VIENNESE
But Haydn feels the wrath of an angry young man
89

#### CHAPTER SIX

MY POOR HEARING HAUNTS ME
But there is 'a dear charming girl who loves me'
107

#### CHAPTER SEVEN

ONLY MY ART HELD ME BACK
In which Beethoven considers suicide
123

#### CHAPTER EIGHT

EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHICS
Napoleon is no more than 'a common tyrant'
137

#### CHAPTER NINE

## O, BELOVED J!

Musical failure, but will Beethoven succeed in love?

155

#### CHAPTER TEN

A DEEPLY IMMORAL WOMAN

Beethoven holds the most important concert of his life,
and is offered a job

#### CHAPTER ELEVEN

### UNDER CANNON FIRE

In which Beethoven once again tries his luck at love 193

CHAPTER TWELVE

IMMORTAL BELOVED

'My angel, my all, my very self'

207

#### CHAPTER THIRTEEN

## AN UTTERLY UNTAMED PERSONALITY

Beethoven turns again to his 'poor shipwrecked opera' 223

#### CHAPTER FOURTEEN

INTO THE WITNESS BOX

How the single letter 'o' ruined Beethoven's life

#### CHAPTER FIFTEEN

A MUSICAL GIFT FROM LONDON

How Rossini found Beethoven 'disorderly and dirty'

261

#### CHAPTER SIXTEEN

'I WANT TO BE A SOLDIER'

In which Beethoven gets drunk with friends

283

## CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

## TWO PISTOLS AND GUNPOWDER

An invitation to get away from it all 303

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN
FRIGHTENING THE OXEN
'The greatest composer of the century,
and you treated him like a servant!'
321

CHAPTER NINETEEN
TERMINALLY ILL
'His face was damp, he spat blood'
337

CHAPTER TWENTY
THE LAST MASTER
'He was an artist, but a man as well'
353

POSTSCRIPT 361

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 367

NOTES 369

INDEX 379