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BETHHOVEN

PIANO SONATAS

HANS KANN, PIANO

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Piano Sonata No. 23 in F minor, Op. 57, "Appassionata"

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro assai (9:33)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Andante con moto (6:01)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Allegro ma non troppo (5:14)

Piano Sonata No. 14 in C sharp minor, Op. 27, No.2, "Moonlight"

- 4 1st mvt. - Adagio sostenuto (6:59)
- 5 2nd mvt. - Allegretto (2:03)
- 6 3rd mvt. - Presto agitato (7:35)

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BETHHOVEN PIANO SONATAS NO. 23 IN F MINOR, 'APPASSIONATA' NO. 14 IN C SHARP MINOR, 'MOONLIGHT'

Hanns Kann, piano

BEETHOVEN: PIANO SONATAS

HANS KANN

Ludwig van Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 23 in F minor, opus 57, colloquially known as the *Appassionata*, is considered one of the three great piano sonatas of his middle period (the others being the Waldstein sonata, opus 53 and Les Adieux, Opus 81a). It was composed during 1803, 1804, 1805, and perhaps 1806, and is dedicated to Count Franz von Brunswick. The first edition was published in February 1807 in Vienna.

Like the early Sonata No. 8, *Pathétique*, the *Appassionata* was not named by the composer, but was so labeled in 1838 by the publisher of a four-hand arrangement of the work.

The *Appassionata* was considered by Beethoven to be his stormiest piano sonata until the *Hammerklavier*, being described as a "brilliantly executed display of emotion and music". 1803 was the year Beethoven came to grips with his complete deafness, and the *Appassionata* clearly reflects the emotional turmoil he felt during its composition.

An average performance of all three movements of the *Appassionata* sonata lasts about 23 minutes.

The Piano Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp minor "Quasi una fantasia", Op. 27, No. 2, by Ludwig van Beethoven, is popularly known as the "*Moonlight*" Sonata (Mondscheinsonate in German). The work was completed in 1801 and rumored to be dedicated to his pupil, 17-year-old Countess Giulietta Guicciardi, with whom Beethoven was, or had been, in love. The name "*Moonlight*" Sonata derives from an 1832 description of the first movement by music critic Ludwig Rellstab, who compared it to moonlight shining upon Lake Lucerne.

Beethoven included the phrase "*Quasi una fantasia*" (Italian: Almost a fantasy) in the title partly because the sonata does not follow the traditional sonata pattern where the first movement is in regular sonata form, and where the three or four movements are arranged in a fast-slow-[fast]-fast sequence. Instead, the *Moonlight* sonata possesses an end-weighted trajectory; the climax is held off until the third movement. To be sure, the deviation from traditional sonata form is intentional. In his analysis of the *Moonlight* sonata, German critic Paul Bekker states that "The opening sonata-allegro movement gave the work a definite character from the beginning...which succeeding movements could supplement but not change. Beethoven rebelled against this determinative quality in the first movement. He wanted a prelude, an introduction, not a proposition." By placing the most dramatic form (sonata form) at the end of the piece, Beethoven could magnify the drama inherent in the form.

The work is possibly the most familiar of all Beethoven's piano sonatas, and is widely performed and recorded. It is so popular that it has been referenced to in video games. For example, the piece is played in the original Resident Evil game as part of a puzzle.

Hans Kann (born February 14, 1927 in Vienna; died June 24, 2005) was an Austrian pianist and composer. He taught music in his native Austria and in Japanese schools such as the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. He was described in the original MMS sleeve notes thus:

Hannes Kann is the most outstanding example of the keyboard renaissance that has made post-war Vienna the center of a new pianistic tradition. Viennese born and trained, he started concertising only in 1946 and has risen meteorically in the esteem of European concert goers. He has toured with leading conductors and orchestras throughout European capitals, performing under the batons of such conductors as Von Karajan and Rosbaud.

NOTES FROM WIKIPEDIA - FULL NOTES ON THIS RECORDING CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM