

Artur Schnabel

Beethoven Piano Sonatas, Vol. 2

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Artur Schnabel on the artistic torments he suffered upon becoming a recording artist for the first time:

"For twenty years I have refused to be part of this destruction by preservation. Now I know I can't play well enough to want to remain forever on the same level. The coupling of the unceasingly changeable man with the permanently insensitive machine is wrong. It is mankind using its intelligence for self-destruction. . . .

My body is too weak for this process. I was close to a breakdown and almost wept when on the street, alone . . . My conscience torments me: this is the surrender to evil, treason against life, the marriage with death."

"It is almost impossible to play with the mechanical exactitude which is required for a definitive, never-to-be-changed performance without sacrificing some measure of concentration and freedom."

"Man cannot be deprived of his soul; and the machine cannot be given a soul. The boundaries between them cannot be effaced."

Quoted in "Artur Schnabel - A Biography" by Cesar Sanchez (Doubt, Mead & Co., New York, 1957)

Recording and restoration notes

Artur Schnabel's 1936 Beethoven Sonata recordings are not a remastering project to be undertaken lightly. There are of course many other transfers already available, and I have held off beginning this series for a number of years, until I could be confident not just of repeating the previous efforts of my colleagues, but of achieving something dramatically new and substantial to the recordings through Pristine's 32-bit XR remastering process.

This is a project which has been started and abandoned several times before in my efforts to produce the very finest, most authentic piano tone, with as clean and quiet a background as possible. This I believe I have finally achieved here, and it is only in the occasional side or short section that one is reminded that these recordings were made nearly 80 years ago. My hope is that the much increased clarity, fidelity and realism of these Pristine releases will allow the listener a far greater appreciation of Schnabel's genius than ever before - and that you will forget the vintage of the recording and matters of sound quality and enjoy these legendary recordings as if hearing them for the very first time. **AR**

Full PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
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BETHOVEN

PIANO SONATAS VOLUME 2

No. 4 in E flat major, Op. 7
No. 5 in C minor, Op. 10 No. 1
No. 6 in F major, Op. 10 No. 2

ARTUR SCHNABEL

RECORDED 1933 & 1935

Beethoven Piano Sonatas Volume Two

BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 4 in E flat major, Op. 7

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro molto e con brio (7:29)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Largo, con gran espressione (9:16)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Allegro (4:54)
- 4 4th mvt. - Rondo - Poco allegretto e grazioso (6:21)

Recorded 11 November 1935, issued as HMV DB 3151-54
Matrix Numbers 2EA.2514-20. All 1st takes except side 2: take 5

BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 5 in C minor, Op. 10 No. 1

- 5 1st mvt. - Allegro molto e con brio (4:40)
- 6 2nd mvt. - Adagio molto (8:02)
- 7 3rd mvt. - Prestissimo (3:58)

Recorded 6 November 1935, issued as HMV DB 3343-44
Matrix Numbers 2EA.2506-08. Takes 2A, 1A, 1, 2A

BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 6 in F major, Op. 10 No. 2

- 8 1st mvt. - Allegro (5:07)
- 9 2nd mvt. - Allegretto (4:02)
- 10 3rd mvt. - Presto (2:04)

Recorded 10 April 1933, issued as HMV DB 2354-55
Matrix Numbers 2B.6397-98 & 6400-01. All 1st takes

Artur Schnabel piano

XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of **Artur Schnabel**

Total duration: **55:58**

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