

Artur Schnabel Beethoven Piano Sonatas, Vol. 6

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"Not the least good thing about the eighth volume of the Beethoven Sonata Society is Eric Blom's most entertaining essay 'Lured Light on Beethoven', which consists of an examination of a new book by an eminent German musical scholar, Dr. Arnold Schering.

In this work only the first volume of which has been issued—the author discovers that five string quartets and eight piano sonatas of Beethoven are based on plays by Shakespeare and another sonata on Schiller's 'Maid of Orleans' ! And the two sonatas, amongst the eight attached by the worthy doctor to the "Tempest" and to 'Much Ado About Nothing' are those in D minor (Op. 31, No. 2) and F major (Op. 54) included in this album...

Schnabel rises to the full measure of the great Sonata in D minor, the first movement of which is full of superb rhythmic energy. But why on earth does he keep the sustaining pedal down throughout the two lovely recitatives in the middle of the movement? 'The poet speaks' : but why this jingling utterance? I should be most interested to hear an explanation of this interpretative eccentricity.

The adagio, as so often with this player, lacks tenderness and is too heavy : and personally I like the final movement to be less explosive than this. The phrasing and the rhythmic impulse in this wonderful movement are splendid, but I missed the effect of the lovely dissolving harmonies just before the last page and I am inclined to agree with the much-belaboured Schering that the figuration of this movement should be, for the most part, 'gently soaring'.

The recording of all the sonatas is good if a little coarse, and as I have intimated, there is plenty of matter for discussion in Schnabel's interpretations, besides lots for any pianist to learn and profit from."

-*AR, Gramophone magazine, April 1936*

Recording and restoration notes

As with previous volumes in this series, the sides here show some variability of surface noise and coarseness, the latter being most obvious in the first movement of the 21st Sonata, but also evident in louder sections of the first movement of Sonata No. 17. Perhaps this isn't always a bad thing - a reminder that these recordings were made nearly 80 years ago is useful when the sonic transformations achieved with XR remastering and Capstan pitch stabilisation are so astonishingly great! **AR**

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
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BEETHOVEN

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PIANO SONATAS

VOLUME 6

ARTUR SCHNABEL

RECORDED 1932 - 1934

No. 17 IN D MINOR, Op. 31 No. 2
"THE TEMPEST"

No. 18 IN E-FLAT MAJOR, Op. 31 No. 3
"THE HUNT"

No. 19 IN G MINOR, Op. 49 No. 1
No. 20 IN G MAJOR, Op. 49 No. 2
"TWO EASY SONATAS"

Artur Schnabel

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Beethoven Piano Sonatas Volume Six

BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 17 in D minor, Op. 31 No. 2

"The Tempest"

1 BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata 17 - 1st mvt. - Largo - Allegro (8:50)

2 BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata 17 - 2nd mvt. - Adagio (8:18)

3 BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata 17 - 3rd mvt. - Allegretto (5:55)

Recorded 27 April 1934, issued as HMV DB 2649-51

Matrix Numbers 2B.6170-82. Takes 2, 2, 2, 2, 4

BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 18 in E flat major, Op. 31 No. 3

"The Hunt"

4 BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata 18 - 1st mvt. - Allegro (8:19)

5 BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata 18 - 2nd mvt. - Scherzo - Allegretto vivace (4:45)

6 BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata 18 - 3rd mvt. - Menuetto - Moderato e grazioso (4:11)

7 BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata 18 - 4th mvt. - Presto con fuoco (4:11)

Recorded 25 March 1932, issued as HMV DB 2358-60

Matrix Numbers 2B.3254-58. Takes 1, 2, 1, 2, 2

BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 19 in G minor, Op. 49 No. 1

8 BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata 19 - 1st mvt. - Andante (4:10)

9 BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata 19 - 2nd mvt. - Rondo - Allegro (3:14)

Recorded 19 November 1932, issued as HMV DB 1956

Matrix Numbers 2B.4530-31. Takes 1, 4

BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 20 in G major, Op. 49 No. 2

10 BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata 20 - 1st mvt. - Allegro, ma non troppo (4:25)

11 BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata 20 - 2nd mvt. - Tempo di menuetto (2:59)

Recorded 12 April 1933, issued as HMV DB 2214

Matrix Numbers 2B.6622-23. Takes 1, 1

Artur Schnabel piano

XR remastering by Andrew Rose

Cover artwork based on photographs of Artur Schnabel

Total duration: 59:17

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