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PREVIEW
NOTES

Stewart Goodyear, piano
Friday, April 8 • 8:00 PM — *American Philosophical Society*

Background

Known for imagination, a graceful, elegant style and exquisite technique, Stewart Goodyear is an accomplished young artist whose career spans many genres—concerto soloist, chamber musician, recitalist and composer. He has performed with many of the major orchestras of the world, including six separate appearances to date with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

All-Beethoven Program

Ludwig van Beethoven

Born: Dec. 16, 1770 in Bonn, Germany
Died: Mar. 26, 1827 in Vienna, Austria

Sonata in E Major, Op. 109

Composed: 1820
Last PCMS performance: Claude Frank in 2007
Duration: 19 minutes

Written at something of a creative nadir for Beethoven, this sonata is quite remarkable in several respects. The first movement has a nearly unique structure, opening with a theme marked *Vivace ma non troppo* that almost immediately slows to an *Adagio espressivo*. Thereafter, the two contrasting tempos and utterances alternate. On the surface, the short movement has a serene, almost angelic quality, but this surface is merely one dimension among many.

Sonata in A-flat Major, Op. 110

Composed: 1821-22
Last PCMS performance: John O’Conor in 2010
Duration: 19 minutes

Though the A-flat Major Sonata is sometimes overshadowed by the “Hammerklavier” and Op. 111 sonatas, this one is equally impressive, its fugal finale in particular achieving the highest keyboard art.

Sonata in C Minor, Op. 111

Composed: 1821-22
Last PCMS performance: Claude Frank in 2009
Duration: 26 minutes

While others may be more popular, Beethoven’s C Minor Sonata may be his greatest and most influential. Not only did it help shape the course of piano music, it influenced the orchestral compositions of Franck, Wagner, Mahler, Prokofiev, and countless others.