

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

PREVIEW
NOTES

Rudolf Buchbinder, *piano*
Tuesday, February 4 – 7:30 PM
Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

PROGRAM

Sonata in C Major, Op. 2, No. 3

Ludwig van Beethoven

Born: December 16, 1770, in Bonn, Electorate of Cologne

Died: March 26, 1827, in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1794-1795

Duration: 26 minutes

This is the last of the three sonatas from the Op. 2 group that Beethoven, more or less, composed simultaneously. Like the First Piano Sonata, the Third draws on material from his youthful work, Piano Quartet No. 3, and, like the Second, it contains some significant innovations. The first movement (Allegro con brio) is dominated by a witty opening theme initiated by a figuration in double-thirds. Additional motifs generated from the initial theme complete the first theme group, and while all the general mood remains lighthearted, the music is also dramatic and replete with characteristic Beethovenian drive and assertiveness, this energy exemplified by brilliantly ascending arpeggiated chords.

Sonata in C Minor, Op. 13, *Pathétique*

Ludwig van Beethoven

Composed: 1797-1798

Duration: 18 minutes

This was the earliest of Beethoven's piano sonatas to reach warhorse status. The work has three movements: the first is marked Grave-Allegro di molto e con brio; the second, Adagio cantabile; and the finale, Rondo (Allegro). Beethoven opens this composition with a meditative introduction, using this feature for the first time in a sonata. Posing a question, the music seeks resolution, which appears in the exposition proper, when the movement, driven by tremolando octaves in the left hand, quickens, and the theme transforms itself into deeply anxious utterance, introducing, once again, a questing, uncertain mood, possibly indicating a desire to transcend the feeling of uncertainty.

Sonata in F Major, Op. 10, No. 2

Ludwig van Beethoven

Composed: 1796-1797

Duration: 14 minutes

This is the shortest of the three sonatas from the Op. 10 group and generally regarded as the least important. Still, it is hardly without significance, and it features many masterful strokes. The finale, for example, is one of Beethoven's most attractive creations among his early piano sonatas. The composer himself was quite fond of the work, probably relishing its humor and quirkiness.

Sonata in F Minor, Op. 57, *Appassionata*

Ludwig van Beethoven

Composed: 1804-1805

Duration: 24 Minutes

From the writing of his Heiligenstadt Testament in 1802 up to the composition of the "Appassionata" in 1804-1805, Beethoven produced some of his most pivotal works, music that foreshadows and heralds the arrival of what is commonly identified as the "second" period of his creativity. Beethoven, it seemed, had turned inward and begun to produce music only he could fully understand. If he had resigned himself to the futility of his cosmic anger, he also determined to thrust his immense genius in the face of God and Man alike, accepting no limitations upon the magnitude or trajectory of his creativity. It was the Beethoven of these works who unleashed the "Appassionata" Sonata in 1805.