

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

Imogen Cooper, *piano*

Tuesday, March 7 – 7:30 PM

Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

PREVIEW
NOTES

PROGRAM

3 Petrarch Sonnets from *Années de Pèlerinage* (Sel.)

Franz Liszt

Born: October 22, 1811, Raiding, Austria

Died: July 31, 1886, Bayreuth, Germany

Composed: 1839-46

Duration: 19 minutes

Liszt's *Tre Sonetti del Petrarca* started life as songs. He received the inspiration for them from Petrarch's Sonnets while travelling in Italy with Marie, Countess d'Agout, in 1838-39. They were reworked as piano solos, eventually appearing in the 1850s in the second volume of the *Années de Pèlerinage –Italie*.

Sonata in E Major, Op. 109

Ludwig van Beethoven

Born: December 16, 1770 in Bonn, Germany

Died: March 26, 1827 in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1820

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 C Major, D. 840, *Reliquie*

Franz Schubert

Born: January 31, 1797, Vienna, Austria

Died: November 19, 1828, Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1825

Duration: 29 minutes

This is perhaps Schubert's largest unfinished piano sonata, yet its remarkable sense of space suggests it had the potential for being one of his most important four movement works. Begun and abandoned in April 1825, it has survived in its incomplete form and is now sometimes known as the "Reliquie"; what exists of it was eventually collected and published some 30 years after Schubert's death. Two panels are complete: the first movement (Moderato) and the slow movement (Andante); the minuet and finale remain incomplete.

Sonata in C Minor, Op. 111

Ludwig van Beethoven

Composed: 1821-1822

Duration: 26 minutes

Without doubt, this is one of the greatest piano sonatas ever written. While there are quite a few of Beethoven's own that are more popular, perhaps only one or two of them rival this one in sheer profundity. This sonata's stormy first movement and its ensuing lengthy Arietta, which makes up the theme and variations second panel, take the listener into sound worlds previously unexplored by other composers, making this work one of the most influential musical creations ever. Not only did it help shape the course of piano music, it influenced the orchestral compositions of Franck, Wagner, Mahler, and many others.