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ADD

Complete Beethoven Sonata Society
Recordings Vol. 7

Artur Schnabel (1882-1951)

Playing
Time
66:04

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1-2	Sonata No. 22 in F major, Op. 54 Recorded 11th April, 1933 in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3, London	10:17
3-5	Sonata No. 23 in F minor, Op. 57, 'Appassionata' Recorded 11th April, 1933 in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3, London	22:09
6-7	Sonata No. 24 in F sharp major, Op. 78 Recorded 21st March, 1932 in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3, London	9:43
8-10	Sonata No. 25 in G major, Op. 79 Recorded 15th November, 1935 in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3, London	8:40
11-13	Sonata No. 26 in E flat major, Op. 81a, 'Les Adieux' Recorded 13th April, 1933 in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3, London	15:15

At first reluctant to make recordings, by the 1930s the great pianist Artur Schnabel fully accepted the new technology. His recordings of Beethoven's piano music include all the numbered sonatas, originally issued on subscription by the Beethoven Sonata Society. Given his status as the leading Beethoven specialist of his time (or perhaps ever), each disc became the subject of intense scrutiny. The recordings on the present disc were no exception, and include Beethoven's *Sonata No. 24*, not widely performed during the 1930s. The *New York Times* declared: "Few who heard the interpretation of the F sharp sonata are likely to forget it, either in respect to its effect as a whole, or in regard to its salient details...Mr. Schnabel's insight and his understanding of its real possibilities, resulted in a reading which must have re-created the work for every musician in the house." In his insistence on recording all thirty-two Sonatas, Schnabel left a statement that influenced how we understand and appreciate many of Beethoven's works.

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Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn

A complete tracklist can be found on the last page of the booklet



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Cover Photograph: Artur Schnabel (Private Collection)

