



Beethoven started composing *Leonore* in January 1804. The subject – the release to freedom of an unjustly imprisoned man by his devoted wife – was part of the genre of 'rescue operas' which were very popular at the end of the 18th century. The premiere of *Leonore*, given before an uncomprehending audience at a time of political upheaval, was a failure and Beethoven responded by shortening the work from three acts to two, which was the version performed in 1806. After further revisions it was to emerge in 1814 as *Fidelio*. This performance is from Opera Lafayette's *Leonore Project* which included a performance of Pierre Gaveaux's *Léonore, ou L'Amour conjugal* (available on Naxos DVD 2.110591 and Blu-ray NBD0085V) – the opera on which Beethoven modelled his *Leonore*.

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
(1770–1827)

LEONORE

Opera in three acts (first version, 1805)

Libretto by Joseph Sonnleithner (1766–1835)

after *Léonore, ou L'Amour conjugal* by Jean-Nicolas Bouilly (1763–1842)

Leonore/Fidelio	Nathalie Paulin
Florestan	Jean-Michel Richer
Rocco	Stephen Hegedus
Marzelline	Pascale Beaudin
Pizarro	Matthew Scollin
Jaquino	Keven Geddes
Don Fernando	Alexandre Sylvestre

Opera Lafayette Orchestra and Chorus
Conductor and Artistic Director **Ryan Brown**

Stage Director **Oriol Tomas**

Set and Costume Designer **Laurence Mongeau**

Lighting Designer **Rob Siler**

Hair and Make-up Designer **Georgiana Eberhard**

Sound Engineer **Marlan Barry**

Video Director **Jason Starr**

Executive Producers

Nizam P. Kettaneh and Ishtar Méjanès

Filmed on 2–4 March 2020 at the Kaye Playhouse, Hunter College, New York, NY, USA



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