



IDIL BIRET BEETHOVEN

Piano Sonatas Pathetique, Moonlight, Waldstein, Appassionata

Piano News (Germany) 2012 "Love of Beethoven's works threads through Idil Biret's life like a red ribbon. Her studio recordings and live concerts show this in an unequivocal language...Next to all the Piano Concertos and the Choral Fantasy she has also performed on stage and recorded (on 19 CDs) all the Piano Sonatas and Symphony Transcriptions becoming perhaps the only artist to reach this level of completeness...This knowledge of Beethoven one hears in every nuance in Idil Biret's playing."

All Music Guide (USA) 2010 "Turkish pianist Idil Biret's series of Beethoven Sonatas is emerging as a major statement in the field., entirely different in emphasis from that of the other cycles that have appeared in the recent years. She favors slow tempos and a light touch, which brings out small details, all subsumed within a convincing and well thought-out overall architecture...a summary of insights gained over a lifetime by a veteran Beethoven interpreter. Her playing is precise without being intellectual...Biret's quiet readings lie at an opposite extreme from the punchy essays of an Andras Schiff...Biret's set is essential listening for the perfect Beethovenian."

Le Monde (France) 1981 "Idil Biret, who arriving in Paris at the age of seven astonished Alfred Cortot, Wilhelm Kempff and Marc Pincherle, remains a remarkable pianist who combines brilliant technical skill with the subdued touch, the interior voices, of her mentor Cortot...Beethoven's Sonata Op. 106 (Hammerklavier) brought us the fighter, armed from top to toe, like a valiant Clorinde, combining the most beautiful of styles with a fabulous virtuosity."

Kurier (Austria) 1970 "Especially with Beethoven's Sonata Op. 10 No. 3, Idil Biret proved herself a great artist with breathtaking depth of expression and dramatic performing power...The big applause was fully deserved."

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (Germany) 1969 "To play Beethoven's Piano Sonata Op. 31 No.1 in front of and 'in the shadow of' Wilhelm Backhaus, on his birthday, must certainly be the highest demand on a young interpreter. Idil Biret has taken up this challenge and brilliantly overcome it. Her playing is full of temperament and nerve, her technical skill as impressive as her sense of shape and nuances. When at the end of the concert Backhaus so cordially thanked his colleague, she was entitled to consider this as being 'knighted'."

BONUS: Idil Biret plays "Ode to Joy" at the Bosphorus Bridge

In April 2020, during a day of national lockdown due to the virus epidemic, Idil Biret performed the "Ode to Joy" part from the 4th movement of Beethoven's 9th Symphony in the transcription for piano by Liszt, on the eerily empty bridge over the Bosphorus, joining Europe to Asia, between the two continents.



Idil Biret with Wilhelm Kempff at his home while working on Beethoven's sonatas. **Ammerland, Germany 1958**

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Region 0

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