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[ADD]

Complete Beethoven Sonata Society Recordings Vol. 6

Artur Schnabel (1882-1951)

Playing Time
68:35

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1 - 3 Sonata No. 17 in D minor, Op. 31, No. 2, 'Tempest'

22:52

Recorded 27th-28th April, 1934 in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3, London

Matrices: 2B 6178-2, 6179-2, 6180-2, 6181-2 and 6182-4

First issued as HMV DB 2649 - 2651 in Society Volume 8

4 - 7 Sonata No. 18 in E flat major, Op. 31, No. 3

21:13

Recorded 25th May, 1932 in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3, London

Matrices: 2B 3254-1, 3255-2, 3257-1, 3256-2 and 3258-2

First issued as HMV DB 2358 - 2360 in Society Volume 6

8 - 10 Sonata No. 21 in C major, Op. 53, 'Waldstein'

24:07

Recorded 25th April and 7th May, 1934 in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3, London

Matrices: 2B 6160-1, 6161-1, 6162-2, 6163-2, 6164-1 and 6165-2

First issued as HMV DB 2853 - 2855 in Society Volume 9

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 of the sonatas on the present disc received closer attention than most, Schnabel's interpretation of the 'Waldstein' sonata prompting the critic Robert A. Hall, Jr. to comment, "to this technical mastery Schnabel adds and fuses what is all too rare a quality: an intensely intelligent (not merely 'intellectual') mind... The result is a perfectly blended interpretation of the music as a spiritual expression and as a musical organism." 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.

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 in England, late 1940s

(Private Collection)

