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Complete Beethoven Sonata Society Recordings Vol. 9

Artur Schnabel (1882-1951)

Playing Time
65:04

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1-3 Sonata No. 30 in E major, Op. 109 20:21
Recorded on 22nd March, 1932 in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3
First issued as HMV DB 1822 through 1824 in Society Volume 2

4-6 Sonata No. 31 in A flat major, Op. 110 18:25
Recorded on 21st January, 1932 in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3
First issued as HMV DB 1957 through 1959 in Society Volume 3

7-8 Sonata No. 32 in C minor, Op. 111 26:00
Recorded on 21st January and from 21st to 22nd March and on 7th May, 1932 in
EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3
First issued as HMV DB 1656 through 1659 in Society Volume 1

In the half century that has passed since his death, Artur Schnabel's reputation as the great scholar-pianist of the early twentieth century has changed remarkably little. He had, for many years, refused to record, believing, among other things, that the technology was simply inadequate, but at the age of fifty he began the task of committing to disc for HMV all of Beethoven's solo piano music, under the Beethoven Sonata Society (BSS) banner. 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. The sonatas on the current disc were among the first to be recorded and *Sonata No. 32* was among the closest to the pianist's heart. Writing in *High Fidelity* in 1970, Harris Goldsmith declared that Schnabel had 'found the elusive balance between classicism and Romanticism, between ripe tonal expansiveness and ascetic economy.'

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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



Cover Photograph: Artur Schnabel (Private Collection)

