

Playing
Time
78:14

BEETHOVEN

Violin Sonatas

Yehudi Menuhin (1916-1999)
Hephzibah Menuhin (1920-1981)

8.110775

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THE EU

Ludwig van BEETHOVEN (1770-1827):

Sonata No. 7 in C minor, Op. 30, No. 2	26:07
1 Allegro con brio	7:07
2 Adagio cantabile	11:05
3 Scherzo : Allegro	3:00
4 Allegro	4:54

Recorded by HMV in EMI Studio No. 3, London, 30 March 1938;
mats. 2EA 6177/83; HMV DB3501/2 or Victor 11-8840/3 in set M-1008

Sonata No. 9 in A 'Kreutzer', Op. 47	35:31
5 Adagio sostenuto - Presto	12:39
6 Andante con variazioni	15:40
7 Finale: Presto	7:12

Recorded by HMV in EMI Studio No. 3, London, 28 November 1934;
mats. 2EA 553/60; HMV DB2409/12; Victor 8642/5 in set M-260

8 Rondo in G, WoO 41	3:39
Recorded by HMV in EMI Studio No. 3, London, 29 March 1938; mats. 2EA 6176; HMV DB3506	

Franz SCHUBERT (1797-1828):

9 Rondo in B minor for Violin and Piano, Op. 70	12:58
Recorded by HMV in EMI Studio No. 3, London, 6 May 1936; mats. 2EA 6617/20; cat. HMVDB3583/4; Victor 11-8182/3 in set M-901	

'Gradually, almost surreptitiously and without really noticing what we were doing, Hephzibah and I had started to play together at home,' Yehudi Menuhin wrote. 'It wasn't a deliberate decision but simply a natural extension of our relations as brother and sister: the partnership came about without our having to make it happen.' When the two first played in public, he was 18 and she was 14. Their partnership would endure, with various enforced separations, until her death on New Year's Day 1981. This recording of the most famous and virtuosic of Beethoven's violin sonatas, the *Kreutzer*, is a limber, athletic, songful performance of great freshness, as one might expect from teenagers. The *Sonata No. 7* is the most darkly intense of the set, with a profound slow movement. By the time the young Menuhins recorded it, in 1938, their duo was well established and there is a palpable feeling of greater assurance in the performance.

Producer and Audio Restoration Producer: Ward Marston

Thanks to Michael H. Gray and Norbeck, Peters & Ford

www.naxos.comCover Image: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
(Lebrecht Music Collection)