



THE COMPLETE  
**BEETHOVEN**  
SYMPHONIES • CONCERTOS • OVERTURES

**LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN**  
(1770-1827)

Triumphing over deafness and turbulent political times, Ludwig van Beethoven singlehandedly changed the course of music history, laying down the foundations for the Romantic era. His nine symphonies grew out of the forms established in the time of Mozart and Haydn, but show a remarkable evolution which embraces heroic grandeur in the Third Symphony, patriotism and innovation in the Fifth Symphony, countryside imagery and narrative in the Sixth Symphony, and choral inspiration in the Ninth Symphony, the 'Ode to Joy' from which has become the Anthem for Europe.

Even Beethoven couldn't entirely escape the influence of Mozart, and this lineage can be traced in the melodic grace to be found in the symphonies as well as the concertos. Imposing in their stature, the five Piano Concertos are filled with lively inventiveness as well as some of the most beautiful music yet to emerge from this genre. Beethoven's single work in the popular *symphonie concertante* form is the 'Triple' Concerto, but it is the distinctive nobility of the Violin Concerto which has seen it gain an unassassable position as one of the greatest works in the repertoire.

Beethoven considered music 'a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy', with greatness of conception and painstaking craftsmanship his hallmarks. The Overtures are no exception in this, reflecting the drama and excitement of the theatre and including the opening of his only opera *Fidelio*.

**Symphonies 1 – 9 • Piano Concertos 1 – 5 • Triple Concerto • Violin Concerto • Choral Fantasy • Romances • Overtures**

**'If you are starting a collection, this is the Beethoven cycle to have'**  
BBC Music Magazine on 8.553477

**'The finest ever digital cycle of the nine symphonies at budget price...performances of vitality and passion...this admirable orchestra whose love for the music irradiates every single bar. Drahos drives outer movement with blazing ferocity; the coda of the triumphal finale is volcanic...Another jewel in the Naxos crown and exceptionally well recorded too. Outstanding.'**

*Classic CD* on 8.553476

**'Takako Nishizaki's silvery timbre and immaculate style are attractive and her lyrical phrasing are very appealing, especially in the relaxed sections of the development of the first movement, while her reprise of the main theme after the Kreisler cadenza is a moment of real magic. ... her slow movement is classically pure. The digital recording is clear and truthful, well balanced, catching the ambience of the Bratislava Concert Hall quite convincingly.'**

*Gramophone* on 8.550149

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