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Playing Time  
54:53

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One of the least explored areas of Beethoven's compositions is the miscellaneous sequence of canons, early exercises in counterpoint, mature jokes and *jeux d'esprit* that he wrote over many years. He composed a two-part canon for the composer Hummel in 1816 and in 1823 one for four voices (written in a tavern) for Count Lichnowsky. He also wrote birthday and Christmas greetings for colleagues and friends, and songs that punned on recipients' names or poked fun at them.

Ludwig van  
**BEETHOVEN**

(1770–1827)

**Canons and Musical Jokes**

Claudia Schlemmer, Soprano

Stefan Tauber, Tenor

Martin Weiser, Franz Schneckleitner, Bass

Luka Kusztrich, Benjamin Lichtenegger,

Lara Kusztrich, Dominik Hellsberg, Violin

Wolfgang Däuble, Cello

Ensemble Tamaniel

Tabea Gerstgrasser, Soprano • Marianne Prenner, Mezzo-soprano

Nicolas Frémy, Tenor • Alex Gazda, Baritone

Cantus Novus Wien

Thomas Holmes, Musical Director and Piano

**INCLUDES WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS**

A detailed track list along with full recording and publishing details can be found inside the booklet. The German and Italian sung texts and English translations are included in the booklet, and may also be accessed at [www.naxos.com/libretti/574176.htm](http://www.naxos.com/libretti/574176.htm) • Recorded at 4tune audio productions, Vienna, Austria • Producer: Johannes Kernmayer • Recording supervisor: Ivan Paley Engineer and editor: Martin Klebahn • Booklet notes: Keith Anderson  
Cover photo by amphotora (iStockphoto.com)