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Complete Beethoven Sonata Society
Recordings Vol. 5

Artur Schnabel (1882-1951)

Playing
Time
58:54

- | | | |
|---------------|--|-------|
| 1 - 3 | Sonata No. 14 in C sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 2, 'Moonlight'
Recorded 10th and 11th April, 1933 in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3, London
Matrices: 2B 6602-1, 6603-1 and 6604-1
First issued as HMV DB 2089 and 2090 in Society Volume 4 | 13:38 |
| 4 - 7 | Sonata No. 15 in D major, Op. 28, 'Pastorale'
Recorded 3rd and 17th February, 1933 in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3, London
Matrices: 2B 2674-4, 2675-3, 2676-4, 2677-3, 2678-4 and 2679-3
First issued as HMV DB 1953 through 1955 in Society Volume 3 | 21:15 |
| 8 - 10 | Sonata No. 16 in G major, Op. 31, No. 1
Recorded 5th and 6th November, 1935 and 15th January, 1937 in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3, London
Matrices: 2EA 2499-1, 2500-3, 2501-2, 2502-3, 2503-2, 2504-3 and 2505-3A
First issued as HMV DB 3154 through 3157 in Society Volume 11 | 24:01 |

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. This, the fifth volume of the Beethoven Piano Sonatas series, presents the famous *Moonlight Sonata*, which was no less a recital favourite in the 1930s than it is today. Writing in 1936, the critic of the *New York Times* noted that Schnabel's interpretation was marked with a characteristic regard both for detail and the full sweep of the work, which "assumed a new vitality". In its August 1933 review of the recording of the *Pastorale Sonata*, *Gramophone's* critic wrote of the transparency of Schnabel's playing and of his unerring choice of tempi. 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

www.naxos.com

Cover Photograph: Artur Schnabel
(Private Collection)

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E.C.



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