

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1963

Three Sonatas for Piano and Obbligato Violin

by

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

Lionel Nowak, pianist
Orrea Pernel, violinist

Op. 12, No. 1 in D major

Allegro con brio
Tema con Variazioni: Andante con moto
Rondo: Allegro

The first of these "strange sonatas, overladen with difficulties" was written in 1799, and dedicated to Salieri.

Op. 24, in F major

Allegro
Adagio molto espressivo
Scherzo: Allegro molto
Rondo: Allegro ma non troppo

This is known as the "Spring" sonata and was written in 1801.

INTERMISSION

Program continued on
reverse side

The SOUTHERN VERMONT ART CENTER
Manchester, Vermont

Program continued

Sonatas for Piano and Obbligato Violin by Beethoven

INTERMISSION

Op. 47, "The Kreutzer," in A minor

Adagio sostenuto .. Presto
Andante con Variazioni
Finale: Presto

The history of the "Kreutzer" sonata is full of paradoxes. It received its name from the fact that it was dedicated to Rodolphe Kreutzer, the famous violinist and teacher at the Paris Conservatoire. It is said that he cared for it so little that he never played it.* Perhaps he was aware that the sonata was dedicated to him only after Beethoven had had a quarrel with the person for whom it was originally written. This was a picturesque mulatto named Bridgetower, a violinist of repute in England where he was long in the service of the Prince of Wales (later George IV). Bridgetower appeared in Vienna in 1803 and arranged a concert for May 24 at eight in the morning! Beethoven, when asked for a sonata, scratched off the first movement in four days, according to Czerny, added the original finale of the Sonata in A, Op. 30, No. 1, and at the last moment produced the lovely variations, which had to be played from the manuscript. Thus the sonata is a patchwork, and we are told that when Bridgetower played it in his usual "extravagant" fashion it was laughed at. Tolstoi on the other hand found it passionate to a shocking degree: and others have apparently been led into confusing brilliance with passion.

* Berlioz, in his Musical Voyage in Germany and Italy" is quoted as saying that Kreutzer could never bring himself to play this "outrageously unintelligible sonata."