

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

presents

Three Sonatas for Piano and Obligato Violin

by

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

Lionel Nowak, pianist  
Orrea Pernel, violinist

Op. 12, No. 1 in D Major - Three Movements

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

Op. 24, in F Major - Four Movements

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

INTERMISSION

Op. 47, "The Kreutzer," in A Minor - Three Movements

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."

SONATAS FOR PIANO AND OBLIGATO VIOLIN

by Beethoven

Program I

Sonata, Opus 12, No. 1

Allegro con brio

Tema con Variazioni: Andante con moto

Rondo: Allegro

Sonata, Opus 24

Allegro

Adagio molto espressivo

Scherzo: Allegro molto

Rondo: Allegro ma non troppo

Sonata, Opus 47

Adagio sostenuto -- Presto

Andante con Variazioni

Finale: Presto

Program II

Sonata, Opus 30, No. 3

Allegro assai

Tempo di Minuetto, ma molto moderato e grazioso

Allegro vivace

Sonata, Opus 30, No. 1

Allegro

Adagio molto espressivo

Allegretto con Variazioni

Sonata, Opus 30, No. 2

Allegro con brio

Adagio cantabile

Scherzo: Allegro

Finale: Allegro

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Program III

Sonata, Opus 12, No. 3

Allegro con spirito  
Adagio con molt' espressione  
Rondo: Allegro molto

Sonata, Opus 23

Presto  
Andante scherzoso, piu Allegretto  
Allegro molto

Sonata, Opus 12, No. 2

Allegro vivace  
Andante, piu tosto Allegretto  
Allegro piacevole

Sonata, Opus 96

Allegro moderato  
Adagio espressivo  
Scherzo: Allegro  
Poco Allegretto