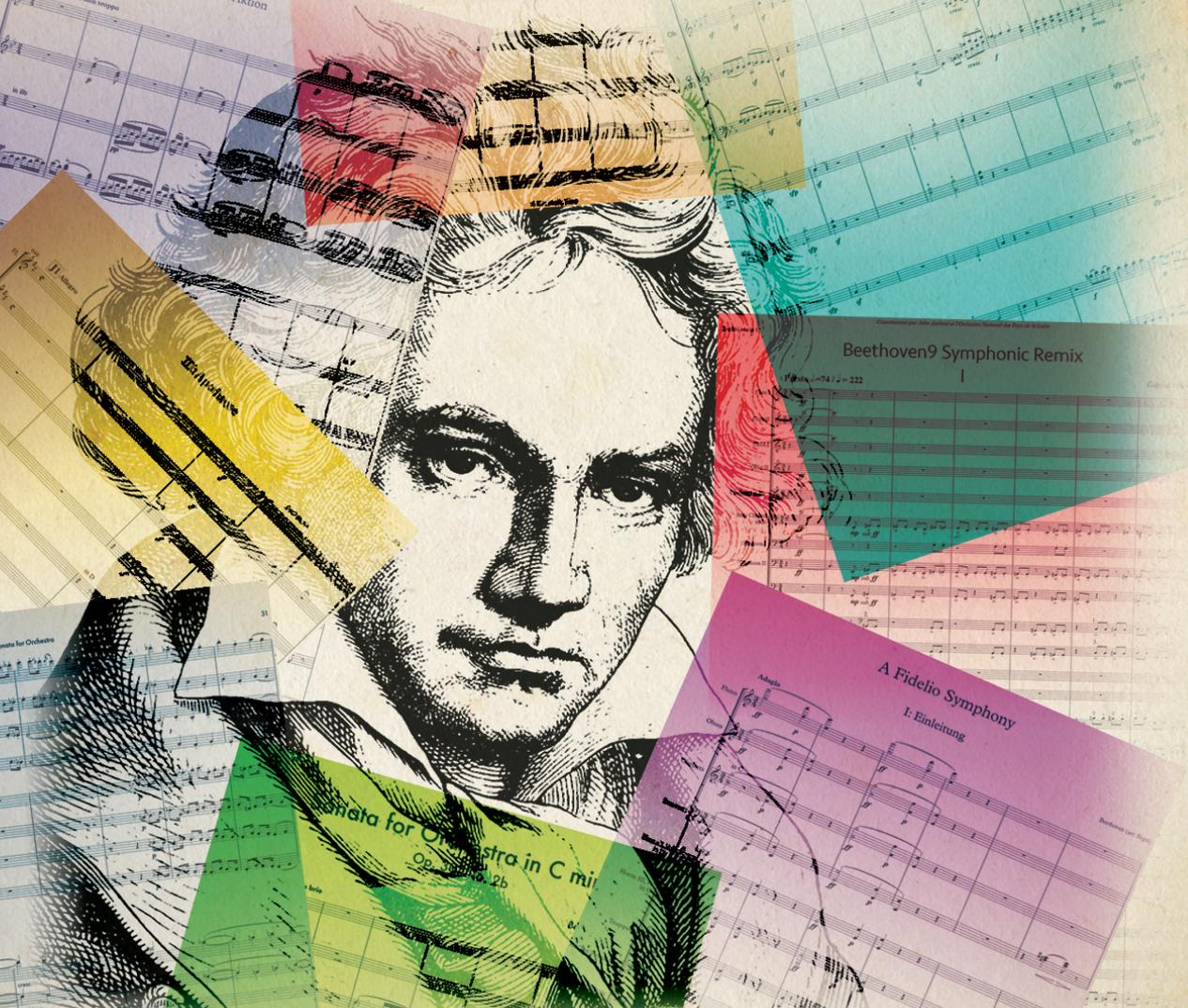




BEETHOVEN REIMAGINED



GABRIEL PROKOFIEV electronics
BBC NATIONAL ORCHESTRA OF WALES YANIV SEGAL

Ludwig van
BEETHOVEN

(1770–1827)

Sonata for Orchestra in C minor, Op. 30, No. 2b **26:31**
(Violin Sonata No. 7 arr. Garrett Schumann, b. 1987;
Yaniv Segal, b. 1981) (1802/2016)

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|------|
| 1 | I. Allegro con brio | 8:25 |
| 2 | II. Adagio cantabile | 8:38 |
| 3 | III. Scherzo: Allegro | 3:51 |
| 4 | IV. Finale: Allegro | 5:32 |

A Fidelio Symphony (arr. Yaniv Segal) (1804–14/2018) **30:34**

- | | | |
|---|----------------|-------|
| 5 | I. Einleitung | 8:49 |
| 6 | II. Aktion | 14:35 |
| 7 | III. Apotheose | 7:07 |

Gabriel
PROKOFIEV

(b. 1975)

BEETHOVEN9 Symphonic Remix (2011) **24:42**
(Text: Friedrich Schiller, 1759–1805)

- | | | |
|----|--|------|
| 8 | I. Presto | 4:10 |
| 9 | II. Allegro assai | 4:46 |
| 10 | III. Freunde, haben wir ein neues Babel?: Presto | 2:46 |
| 11 | IV. Freude Schöner GötterFUNKen: Allegro assai | 3:21 |
| 12 | V. Über Sternen (Beyond Stars): Andante maestoso a mezzo tempo | 2:52 |
| 13 | VI. Alla marcia | 3:30 |
| 14 | VII. Ode finale: Molto vivace ma tranquillo | 3:17 |

BEETHOVEN REIMAGINED

Garrett Schumann · Yaniv Segal · Gabriel Prokofiev

'In December of 2020, we celebrate the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth. The three works I have selected for this album reimagine Beethoven in completely different ways. The aim is to recreate that special feeling of hearing a new Beethoven work for the first time.' – Yaniv Segal

Sonata for Orchestra in C minor, Op. 30, No. 2b
(*Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 7* was written by Beethoven in 1801–02, and arranged by Garrett Schumann and Yaniv Segal in 2016.)

Composer Garrett Schumann and I imagined what Beethoven's *Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 7 in C minor, Op. 30, No. 2* may have sounded like if Beethoven had written it for orchestra. Both Schumann and I were attracted to this particular *Sonata* due to its innate drama, scope, and similarities with Beethoven's future works in C minor, most notably his *Fifth Symphony*. We examined Beethoven's early symphonies and concertos, and then modelled our arrangement on the master's own approaches in an attempt to create a new work 'by Beethoven'. The *Sonata for Orchestra* thus retains the essence of Beethoven's original while greatly expanding the colours available with the rich palette of a full symphony orchestra.

A Fidelio Symphony

(*Fidelio* was written by Beethoven between 1804 and 1814, and arranged by Yaniv Segal in 2018.)

Beethoven's genius as an instrumental composer is unmistakable even in his lone opera *Fidelio*, a work that could aptly be described as a dramatic symphony with voices. To share the music from this infrequently staged work with more audiences, I decided to create a new instrumental-only suite of *Fidelio* where the vocal lines are incorporated into the symphonic texture, and listeners are taken through the arc of the opera in just over a half hour. The first part of the symphony, *Einleitung*, opens with

music from the original overture (now known as *Leonore Overture No. 2*) and the enchanting first act quartet (*Mir ist so wunderbar*). Part II, *Aktion*, presents the climactic end of Act I, beginning with the transcendent prisoner's chorus (*O welche Lust*), followed by the dark opening of Act II, where Florestan first despairs (*Gott! Welch Dunkel hier!*) and later dreams of his love, Leonore – here represented in a special duet between the oboe and cor anglais (an instrument Beethoven did use in his lifetime, albeit very sparingly). The final part, *Apotheose*, features music from the dramatic and spiritual culminations of *Fidelio*, including the famous off-stage trumpet call that signals the turning of the tide in the opera, and concludes with *Leonore Overtures Nos. 2 and 3*.

BEETHOVEN9 Symphonic Remix

(*Symphony No. 9* was written by Beethoven between 1822 and 1824. Gabriel Prokofiev wrote his *Symphonic Remix* in 2011.)

This audacious and dynamic work is based entirely on material from the last movement of Beethoven's final symphony. While staying true to the traditional theme and variation form of the original, Prokofiev uses Beethoven's melodic cells and the *Ode to Joy* theme to create loops, grooves and musical transformations that incorporate Modernism, Minimalism, hip-hop, grime, North African rai, neo-classical, Impressionism, Egyptian funk, Sufi Zikr, Baroque, house and electroacoustic ideas. Each style brings a different culture, social context and even time period to the piece, creating a contemporary 'remix' that is a modern tribute to the universalist sentiments of Beethoven's masterwork. In the composer's words:

'The idea of making a remix for full orchestra, and not simply following the more classical theme and variations approach, really appealed to me. The "remix" is a very contemporary concept which originated in the world of nightclubs and

dance music but actually suggests many interesting approaches to how one can handle the original material; and unlike the more traditional theme and variations which tend to focus mainly on the "theme" or melody of the original, remixes can take into account any element of the original piece of music.'

The work was commissioned by John Axelrod and the Orchestre National de Pays de la Loire in 2011. The live electronics part, here performed by Prokofiev himself, was created by sampling and transforming a recording that included *Ode to Joy* specifically sung, spoken and whispered by the chorus of the Orchestre national des Pays de la Loire (director: Valérie Fayet).

Yaniv Segal

Gabriel Prokofiev



Photo: Malihe Norouzi

Gabriel Prokofiev is a London-based composer, producer, DJ and founder of the Nonclassical record label and Remix series. Informed by his background as a producer of hip-hop, grime and electro records, as well as by his earlier involvement in electroacoustic music, Prokofiev's distinct musical sound embraces and challenges Western classical traditions. He represents the forefront of a new approach to classical music at the beginning of the 21st century.

www.gabrielprokofiev.com

BBC National Orchestra of Wales



For 90 years, BBC National Orchestra of Wales (BBC NOW) has played an integral part in the cultural landscape of Wales, occupying a distinctive role as both a broadcast and national symphony orchestra. Part of BBC Wales and supported by the Arts Council of Wales, it performs a busy schedule of live concerts throughout Wales and the rest of the UK. The orchestra is an ambassador of Welsh music, championing contemporary composers and musicians, and works closely with Welsh composer-in-association Huw Watkins. The orchestra performs annually at the BBC Proms and biennially at the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition, and its concerts can be heard regularly across the BBC: on Radio 3, Radio Wales and Radio Cymru. Building on its extensive work with special educational needs schools, BBC NOW performed the first ever Relaxed Prom in 2017, which won Best Family Event at the 2018 Fantastic for Families Awards. In December 2018 the Orchestra toured to China with Xian Zhang working with the British Council in China as part of their Inspiring Women in the Arts campaign. In 2015, as part of an extensive South America tour, the orchestra visited the Welsh colony in Patagonia. BBC NOW is based at BBC Hoddinott Hall in Cardiff Bay, where it continues its work as one of the UK's foremost soundtrack orchestras.

www.bbc.co.uk/bbcnow

Yaniv Segal

Photo: Bruno Fidrych



Yaniv Segal has appeared on stages as a conductor, composer, violinist, actor and singer. He is dedicated to bringing classical music of all types to a broad and mainstream audience. Segal co-founded the collaborative Chelsea Symphony in New York City, is currently working as an assistant conductor with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and was spotlighted by *Esquire* magazine as a rising star.

www.yanivsegal.com

2020 is the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, and this album presents three works that reshape the composer's awe-inspiring music for the 21st century. The *Sonata for Orchestra* considers how the *Violin Sonata No. 7* would sound had it been written for orchestra, while *A Fidelio Symphony* transforms vocal lines into symphonic textures to take us through the entire arc of the composer's sole opera. Based on the famous *Ode to Joy* of Beethoven's final symphony, *BEETHOVEN9 Symphonic Remix* uses loops, grooves and musical transformations to create a contemporary tribute to Beethoven's universal message.

BEETHOVEN REIMAGINED

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

- 1–4** **Sonata for Orchestra in C minor, Op. 30, No. 2b** 26:31
(arr. Garrett Schumann, b. 1987; Yaniv Segal, b. 1981) (1802/2016)
- 5–7** **A Fidelio Symphony** (arr. Yaniv Segal) (1804–14/2018) 30:34

Gabriel Prokofiev (b. 1975)

- 8–14** **BEETHOVEN9 Symphonic Remix** (2011) 24:42

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

Gabriel Prokofiev, Electronics **8–14**

BBC National Orchestra of Wales • Yaniv Segal

Recorded: 15–17 May 2018 at Hoddinott Hall, Cardiff Bay, Wales, UK
Producer, engineer and editor: Phil Rowlands • Booklet notes: Yaniv Segal
Publishers: Gist Music **1–4**, Yaniv Segal **5–7**, Mute Song **8–14**

A detailed track list can be found inside the booklet.

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Cover design by Adi Segal and Darren Rumney



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