

# JOHN O'CONNOR

**Haydn: Sonatas**



STEINWAY & SONS



The Irish pianist John O'Connor has been gathering wonderful reviews for his masterly playing for over forty years — his unanimous 1st Prize at the International Beethoven Piano Competition in Vienna in 1973 opening the door to a career that has brought him all around the world. His recordings of the complete Beethoven Piano Sonatas led CD Review to say that he “by now should be recognized as the world’s premier Beethoven interpreter.” His recordings of the complete Beethoven Piano Concertos with the London Symphony Orchestra and Andreas Delfs have also been greeted with acclaim.

O'Connor is Chair of the Piano Division at Shenandoah University in Virginia, a faculty member at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, International Visiting Artist at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and Visiting Professor at Showa University in Japan. For his services to music he has been decorated “Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres” by the French Government, awarded the “Ehrenkreuz für Wissenschaft und Kunst” by the Austrian Government, the “Order of the Rising Sun” by the Japanese Government and has received many other awards.

O'Connor is a Steinway Artist.

## Haydn should be Mandatory!

Liked, occasionally overlooked, ever so slightly patronized ("Papa Haydn"), criminally neglected by most symphony orchestras: we seem to need reminders of how wonderful Joseph Haydn truly is, and above all, how much we need him! He might not be the most popular composer, but he is the most *important* composer: for orchestras to keep their musical blood from coagulating; for pianists to learn phrasing and articulation; for chamber musicians to learn about temperament. And for audiences to learn about wit, humor, subtleties, refinement, and honesty in music. Every work of Haydn's is a lesson in music appreciation. Just about every musician agrees — but not everyone does something about it.

Pianist Rudolf Buchbinder asserts: "every orchestra, every pianist needs to play much more Haydn... I learned everything from him... and it helps with all [other] composers. It's the vitamins that everyone needs." Conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen, a self-proclaimed Haydn fan: "If there is one composer who... is not as well-known as he should be, that is Haydn. I think his music is in many ways more inventive and more fascinating than Mozart's... To be pampered with such fantasy and technical prowess and that kind of relentless imagination is a gift that everybody should be able to enjoy."

All the more important it is to listen to Haydn, to play it, and program it regularly. Not to treat him as the throwaway symphony or the warmup sonata. Not to underestimate the difficulty and think that only because the notes are easy to play, the music is easy to perform. It is harder to do a Haydn Symphony well than one by Mahler and in a way is probably easier to pull off Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations* than a sonata by Haydn. John O'Connor would know, having just recorded both: the *Diabelli Variations* (also available on the Steinway label) and this recital, presenting a cross-section of the 62 gems Haydn wrote; sonatas which prepared the ground for all piano sonatas to come. With the five sonatas at hand, written between 1767 (No. 31) and 1789 (No. 58), O'Connor covers all the major periods of Haydn's sonata writing. Listen and hear how the gently beaming, utterly sophisticated, coy and artless Haydn cures all problems!

— Jens F. Laurson

1-3	<b>Sonata No. 47 in B minor, Hob. 16 No. 32</b>	
	<b>I. Allegro moderato</b>	4:40
	<b>II. Menuet</b>	3:26
	<b>III. Finale – Presto</b>	3:15
4-6	<b>Sonata No. 38 in F Major, Hob. 16 No. 23</b>	
	<b>I. Allegro moderato</b>	4:52
	<b>II. Adagio</b>	4:12
	<b>III. Finale – Presto</b>	2:42
7-9	<b>Sonata No. 31 in A flat Major, Hob. 16 No. 46</b>	
	<b>I. Allegro moderato</b>	8:56
	<b>II. Adagio</b>	5:33
	<b>III. Finale – Presto</b>	2:49
10-12	<b>Sonata No. 33 in C minor, Hob. 16 No. 20</b>	
	<b>I. Moderato</b>	7:33
	<b>II. Andante con moto</b>	5:51
	<b>III. Finale – Allegro</b>	4:13
13-14	<b>Sonata No. 58 in C Major, Hob. 16 No. 48</b>	
	<b>I. Andante con espressione</b>	7:44
	<b>II. Rondo – Presto</b>	3:58
	<b>Playing Time</b>	69:51

Haydn: Sonatas

was recorded at Steinway Hall, New York City:

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and October 26-27, 2015

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Producer: Jon Feidner

Audio Recording Engineer: Daniel Shores

Assistant Engineer: Lauren Sturm

Mixing and Mastering Engineer: Daniel Shores

Editing: Jon Feidner and Kazumi Umeda

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Merging Technologies HAPI Converter

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Administrative Assistant: Joanne Hong

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Spirio Record Piano: Steinway Model B

# 567568 (New York)

Spirio Playback Piano: Steinway Model D

# 597590 (New York)

Piano Technician: Lauren Sturm

Performances captured using Steinway's exclusive

Spirio® technology; audio recording made using

Spirio® piano in playback mode.

# JOHN O'CONNOR PIANO

**Franz Joseph Haydn** (1732 – 1809)

This recital presents a cross-section of the 62 gems Haydn wrote;  
sonatas which prepared the ground for all piano sonatas to come.

1-3	<b>Sonata No. 47 in B minor, Hob. 16 No. 32</b>	11:22
4-6	<b>Sonata No. 38 in F Major, Hob. 16 No. 23</b>	11:48
7-9	<b>Sonata No. 31 in A flat Major, Hob. 16 No. 46</b>	17:19
10-12	<b>Sonata No. 33 in C minor, Hob. 16 No. 20</b>	17:38
13-14	<b>Sonata No. 58 in C Major, Hob. 16 No. 48</b>	11:42
	<b>Playing Time</b>	69:51



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