

A photograph of Gerardo Teissonnière, a bald man with a grey beard, wearing a black turtleneck sweater. He is sitting at a black Steinway piano, leaning his right arm on the top edge and his left hand resting on the piano's surface. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

BEETHOVEN

# THE LAST SONATAS

PIANO SONATAS OP. 109, 110, 111

GERARDO TEISSONNIÈRE



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The last three piano sonatas of Ludwig van Beethoven represent a pinnacle in artistic achievement and the triumph of the human spirit over adversity, and constitute the closing chapter in one of the most important legacies in the solo instrumental literature by any composer.

The drama, complex emotional charge, depth and range of expression in these works evoke the most poignant moments of the human experience in contemporary times, and have inspired a shared personal desire to convey messages of empathy, hope, gratitude, love and strength inherent in the music.

With this unique triptych, the last sonatas he wrote for any instrument, Beethoven extended the limits of musical and pianistic convention and imagination, introducing new technical and tonal elements to the instrument for which they were written and changing the traditional boundaries of the classical sonata form for future generations of composers. Beethoven's personal and physical challenges, along with historical events in his life, form an integral part of the existence of these sonatas, each with individual yet interrelated characteristics.

These three extraordinarily diverse works present us with some of the composer's most beautiful, innermost, surprising, and transcendental musical expression. Together, they comprise a transformative musical journey, one of the most challenging, enjoyable, and rewarding solo recital programs I take great pleasure in sharing with my audiences.

-GERARDO TEISSONNIÈRE





  
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Regarded by international audiences and critics as an artist of extraordinary musicianship and rare sensibility since his American solo recital debut at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., pianist **GERARDO TEISSONNIÈRE** brings to the concert stage an exciting amalgam of the diverse and important musical traditions he represents. From the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado and Lincoln Center in New York to concert halls in Asia, Europe, North and Latin America, Mr. Teissonnière has appeared in recital and as soloist with orchestra, in duo-piano and chamber music performances, and in radio and television broadcasts throughout the world.

Concert season highlights include his solo recital debuts in Munich and Vienna, as well as solo and chamber music performances in Italy, in the United States with members of The Cleveland Orchestra, an appearance at the Teatro Nacional de Costa Rica, a performance for an audience of twenty thousand and a solo recital at the Diaoyucheng International Music Festival in Chongqing, China, his solo recital and concerto debuts in Beijing, and all-Chopin concerts in Poland. In 2019 Mr. Teissonnière began performing all of Beethoven's works for piano and orchestra, and presented a series of solo recitals featuring works by and dedicated to the composer's 250th anniversary in December of 2020. Upcoming season highlights include return engagements in Austria (Barocksaal in Vienna), Germany, and Italy, and his Paris solo recital debut in October of 2022 featuring the music of Beethoven, Chopin, and Debussy.

During the worldwide Schubert Bicentennial celebrations, Mr. Teissonnière presented a series of critically acclaimed solo recitals dedicated to the works of the Viennese composer. While highly regarded since for his interpretations of the Classical repertoire, he has presented local, American, and world première performances of music by twentieth century and contemporary composers such as Pablo Casals, Aaron Copland, Alberto Ginastera, Osvaldo Golijov, Lowell Liebermann, Darius Milhaud, and Arvo Pärt.

Gerardo Teissonnière is the recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award and the Arthur Loesser Performance Prize from the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Judson Smart Living Award in Education, and multiple nominations for the Ohio Arts Council's Governor's Award for the Arts.

Mr. Teissonnière began his musical training at an early age in Puerto Rico. Conservatory studies followed with two disciples of Artur Schnabel and Alfred Cortot, Jesús María Sanromá and Steinway Immortal Vitya Vronsky Babin at the Cleveland Institute of Music. At the Aspen Music Festival he worked with Jeaneane Dowis and Samuel Lipman and in Europe with Dmitri Bashkirov. An exclusive Steinway Artist, Mr. Teissonnière is on the Artist Roster of the Si-Yo Music Society Foundation in New York.

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Recorded September 7-9, 2021 at Sono Luminus Studios, Boyce, Virginia.

Recording Producer: Elaine Martone, Sonarc Music

Editing: Erica Brenner and Daniel Shores

Recording, Mixing and Mastering Engineer: Daniel Shores

Executive Producers: Eric Feidner, Jon Feidner

Art Direction: Jackie Fugere

Design: Cover to Cover Design, Anilda Carrasquillo

Photography: Dario Acosta

Production Assistant: Renée Oakford

Piano: Steinway & Sons Model D #590904

Piano Technician: John Veitch



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Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Sonata No. 30 in E major, Op. 109

- 1 I. Vivace ma non troppo -  
Adagio espressivo - Tempo I -  
Adagio espressivo - Tempo I 4:21

- 2 II. Prestissimo 2:23

- 3 III. Andante. Molto cantabile  
ed espressivo. Gesang mit innigster  
Empfindung 14:28

Sonata No. 31 in A flat major, Op. 110

- 4 I. Moderato. Cantabile  
molto espressivo 6:59

- 5 II. Allegro molto 2:24

- 6 III. Adagio ma non troppo - Arioso dolente  
Fuga: Allegro ma non troppo 11:03

Sonata No. 32 in C minor, Op. 111

- 7 I. Maestoso - Allegro con brio ed  
appassionato 8:59

- 8 II. Arietta: Adagio. Molto semplice e  
cantabile 18:22

Playing Time: 69:06



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