



Smithsonian Associates

The Great Composer-Pianists: Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Brahms

Dr. Rachel Franklin

Wednesday, May 18, 2022 - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. ET

WK 2. SYLLABUS & WORKS

May 18th: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827

“His improvisation was most brilliant and striking. In whatever company he might chance to be, he knew how to produce such an effect upon every hearer that frequently not an eye remained dry, while many would break out into large sobs; for there was something wonderful in his expression in addition to the beauty and originality of his ideas and his spirited style of rendering them. After ending an improvisation of this kind he would burst into loud laughter and banter his hearers on the emotion he had caused in them. "You are fools!" he would say. "Who could live among such spoiled children?" he would cry...” *Carl Czerny*.

Mozart may have enchanted his listeners, but Beethoven overwhelmed and frequently disturbed them. While constantly harassing piano makers for stronger instruments and dealing with encroaching deafness, Beethoven created entirely new piano techniques almost by accident as he fought to express his titanic ideas on the instrument. We look at his spiritual views, friendships, dedicatees, and how his immensely complex life played directly into his piano improvisations and compositions.

Beethoven’s works explored, media used:

Piano trio in C minor, Op. 1, No. 3

- Eugene Istomin, piano Isaac Stern, violin Leonard Rose, cello

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93vnFtKYB6A>

Sonata quasi una fantasia, Op. 27, No. 2 (no.14) in C# Minor, "Moonlight", a comparison of interpretations

- Louis Lortie, Jeno Jando

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5-IqJZPxQY>

Sonata No. 21. in C, Op. 53 “Waldstein”

- Daniel Barenboim

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3l18HTo5rY>

“Kreutzer” sonata for violin and piano, No. 9 in A, Op. 47

- Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Fazıl Say

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OF9fneQ50Us>

Sonata No. 26 in E flat, Op 81a “Lebewohl” (Les Adieux) on a reproduction of an original Graf)

- Ronald Brautigam

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AI3CAw7RC1o>

“Der Wachtelschlag” (The Quail), WoO. 129

- Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Jörg Demus

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QpVgRIA_Dg

Concerto No. 1 in C, Op. 15

Concerto No. 5 in E flat, “Emperor” Op. 73

Sonata No. 31 in A flat, Op. 110

Bagatelle No. 6 in E flat, Op. 126

A number of you have reached out to me asking about my concert performances now that pandemic restrictions are easing. For my upcoming performance of Beethoven’s Emperor Concerto, please click on this link:

<https://washingtonsinfonietta.org/concerts/2020/6/13/music-among-friends-7nfff-tzw78>