



Smithsonian Associates

Great Musical Partnerships

Dr. Rachel Franklin

Wednesday, May 01, 2024 - 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET

MAY 1 Beethoven and his Circle

Ludwig van Beethoven was notorious for being an extremely high-maintenance friend, but throughout his life many of his circle remained fiercely loyal to him including his adored Antonie Brentano, piano maker Nanette Streicher, and farsighted patrons such as Count Ferdinand von Waldstein and Prince Karl Lichnowsky. He was less successful with his rollicking but short-lived partnership with violinist George Bridgetower, and although his teacher Joseph Haydn certainly respected him they didn't end up on the best of terms! We enjoy selections from Beethoven's song cycle *To the Distant Beloved*, his mighty *Diabelli Variations* and the ferocious *Waldstein* sonata, among others.

Beethoven's works explored, media used

Trio in C minor, Op. 1, No. 3, 1794

- Trio Orelon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Quh8cCbTwqk>

Symphony No. 2, Op. 36, 1803, 4th movt

- Paavo Järvi, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bcYalmYzVc>

Sonata quasi una fantasia, Op. 27, No. 2 (no.14) in C# Minor, "Moonlight", 1801, a comparison of interpretations

- Louis Lortie, Jeno Jando
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5-lqJZPxQY>

Sonata No. 21. in C, Op. 53 "Waldstein", 1804

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

"Kreutzer" sonata for violin and piano, No. 9 in A, Op. 47, 1803

- 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), 1810

- Ronald Brautigam
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Al3CAw7RC1o>

Bagatelle, Op. 33, No. 1, performed on a Nannette Streicher piano from 1816

- Ekaterina Polyakova
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezd3l0HCiV4>

"An die Ferne Geliebte", op.98, 1816, "To the Distant Beloved"

- Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Gerald Moore
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOk7EWYbyqk>

"Diabelli" Variations, Op. 120, 1819-1823

- Grigory Sokolov
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAl4-9yc6kA>