



School of Music
University of Missouri

2020-2021 Series | Faculty Recital

Beethoven: The Last Three Piano Sonatas

Peter Miyamoto, piano

January 31, 2021 | 3:00pm
Sinquefeld Music Center

Program

Piano Sonata No. 30 in E Major, Op. 109.....Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Vivace, ma non troppo – Adagio espressivo

Prestissimo

Gesangvoll, mit innigster Empfindung (Andante molto cantabile ed espressivo)

Piano Sonata No. 31 in A-flat Major, Op. 110

Moderato cantabile molto espressivo

Allegro molto

Adagio ma non troppo – Fuga: Allegro ma non troppo – L'istesso tempo di Arioso – L'istesso tempo della Fuga poi a poi di nuovo vivente

Intermission

Piano Sonata No. 32 in C Minor, Op. 111

Maestoso – Allegro con brio ed appassionato

Arietta: Adagio molto semplice e cantabile

Program Notes

When I started my traversal of the complete sonatas of Beethoven involving piano (10 Violin, 5 Cello, 1 horn, 1 four-hand, and 32 solo piano sonatas), I always envisioned concluding the cycle with this program of the final three piano sonatas. The triptych of Op. 109-111 exhibits great cohesion achieved through textural references between the sonatas and a shared sound world of intense expression. At the same time, each individual sonata differentiates itself from the others with a different formal scheme that perfectly fits its musical content. They are some of Beethoven's most profound musical utterances, making it almost impossible not to read into them the biographical program of spiritual acceptance at the end of a deaf composer's difficult life lived in defiance of Fate.

Perhaps because these sonatas touch on the deepest emotions, I have found solace in working on them during this trying pandemic year. It was a year of loss for so many in the world. I hope that the message of Beethoven's music – that the human spirit has the power to overcome, celebrate, and accept all in life – brings some healing to those who have suffered loss recently.

Performer Biography

Peter Miyamoto has enjoyed a brilliant international career, performing to great acclaim in recital and as soloist in Canada, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland, China, and Japan, and in major US cities such as Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Washington D.C. In 1990, Miyamoto was named the first Gilmore Young Artist. He won numerous other competitions, including the American Pianist Association National Fellowship Competition, the D'Angelo Competition, the San Francisco Symphony Competition and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Competition. Dr. Miyamoto holds degrees from the Curtis Institute of Music, Yale University School of Music, Michigan State University, and the Royal Academy of Music in London. His teachers included Maria Curcio-Diamand, Leon Fleisher, Claude Frank, Peter Frankl, Marek Jablonski, Aube Tzerko, and Ralph Votapek. Currently Professor of Piano at the University of Missouri School of Music, Peter Miyamoto previously held teaching positions at Michigan State University and the California Institute of the Arts and taught for many years at the New York Summer Music Festival and more recently at the Curtis Young Artist Summer Program. He serves as Executive Director of the Plowman Chamber Music Competition.