

SONATA

in E-flat Major

Ludwig van Beethoven

Op. 31, No. 3

*) Abbreviations: M. T. signifies Main Theme, S. T., Sub-Theme; Cl. T., Closing Theme; D.G., Development-group; R., Return; Tr., Transition; Md. T., Mid-Theme; Ep., Episode.

Allegro. (♩ = 116.)

18. M.T. a) *p espr.* *ten.* *ten.* b) *ri - tar - dan - do.* *cresc.*

c) *a tempo. semplice.* *sf* *p* *ten.* *ten.* *p* *cresc.* *sf* *ten.* *ten.*

a tempo. (♩ = 132.) *f* *ten.* *sf* *ten.* *leggiere.*

a) This pregnant introductory measure—in a sense the principal motive, the germ, or we might even say the flower, of the whole movement—may be played in various ways, this variety being referable, in particular, to its relation to the repetition in the next measure. In the latter a *crescendo* or *diminuendo* is equally appropriate; the motive may be accented as a question or an exclamation, or may be sung with yearning or even resigned expression (the last would seem best suited to measures 33-4), provided that the reading does not overstep the limits of unaffected grace. The refined and emotional rendering of this one measure is a wellnigh decisive touchstone for the innate taste and musical talent of the player.

b) *Ritardando*, a gradual, progressive retardation of the tempo, and not a sudden change to a slower rate, like *Ritenuato*.

c) The hold sustained *a piacere*, only that the following measure must have the effect of concluding the entire period.

*) German equivalents: M. T., Hauptsatz; S. T., Seitensatz; Cl. T., Schlusssatz; D.G., Durchführungssatz; R., Rückgang; Tr., Übergang; Md. T., Mittelsatz; Ep., Zwischensatz; Coda, Anhang.

p scherzando.

f

sf

p

cresc.

ten.

a tempo.

p

fz

dolce scherzando.

a) poco stringendo.

S. T.

ten.

mf

p

mf

p

a) To avoid monotony, these 4 measures may be played in a somewhat livelier manner than the similar group just preceding; or a certain variety may be introduced into the shading, for which the traditional repetition of the first division (still admissible in comparatively short movements) offers additional opportunity; e.g.

mf

p

mf

p

etc.

or conversely.

lusingando *cresc.* *dimin.*

con moto

tranquillo. *dimin.* *p grazioso. b)*

cresc. *espr.* *mf* *ten.* *c) tr*

mf *ten.* *tr* *crescendo.* *sf*

a) In our opinion the execution of this graceful ornament, without haste and without disturbing the rhythm by unduly prolonging the measure, is materially facilitated by the brief intervention of the left hand.

b) For separating small groups of notes without conspicuously accenting the notes on which they begin, there is no more effective device than to take the first note of each with the finger that has just played the last note of the preceding group.

c) Including the after-beat, seven notes suffice for this and the following trills, 3 on the fifth eighth-note and 4 on the sixth.

The musical score is divided into five systems, each with a piano (p) and a right-hand (RH) part. The notation includes various dynamic markings, articulations, and performance instructions.

- System 1:** Marked 'a)'. Dynamics include *sf*, *f*, and *f p*. It features trills (*tr*) and a *cresc.* marking. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-4 and 1-2.
- System 2:** Dynamics include *f*, *mf*, and *p*. It includes a *cresc.* marking and a *tr* marking. Fingerings 132 and 5321 are shown.
- System 3:** Marked 'Coda.'. Dynamics include *f*, *p*, and *f*. It includes 'espr. tranquillo.' and 'leggiero.' markings. Fingerings 5, 121, and 32132 are shown.
- System 4:** Marked 'D.G. (♩ = 116.)'. Dynamics include *p*, *pp*, and *cresc.*. It includes a *tr* marking and a *ri - tar - dan - do* marking.
- System 5:** Marked 'b)'. Dynamics include *ffz*, *fz*, *f p*, and *dolce. ten.*. It includes a *vivace.* marking and a *tr* marking. Fingerings 412, 412, and 3215 are shown.

a) The execution of this passage calls for nearly perfect technical finish. In practising, extend it by adding an octave, phrasing throughout in groups of two quarter - notes.

b) The so-called "development" commencing here is to be played in a rather agitated and vehement style, yet the humorous element must never be wholly overshadowed by the pathetic; to this end appropriate use may be made of the tranquilizing episodes.

The musical score consists of five systems of staves. The first system features a trill in the right hand and a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand, with dynamics *f* and *dimin.*. The second system includes a *pp* *leggiero* section followed by a *pp* *poco marcato* section, with a *marc.* instruction. The third system shows a *cresc.* section leading to a *f* section, with a *ten.* (tension) marking. The fourth system begins with a *pp* section and a *p* section. The fifth system features a *sf* section with a *ten.* marking. Various fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and articulations (trills, accents) are indicated throughout the score.

a) Awkward left hands will do well to fill out the rest when practising the passage, sufficiently accenting the first note until the correct rhythm is learned:



b) Always play this recurrent passage *non legato*, with energetic and independent finger-action.

The musical score is written for piano and consists of five systems of staves. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, trills, and dynamic markings. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Performance instructions like *calmando.*, *cresc.*, *rit.*, and *a tempo.* are present. The key signature has two flats, and the time signature is 4/4. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

System 1: *sf*, *ten.*, *tr*, *sf*, *ten.*, *tr*. Fingerings: 3, 3 2 5 2, 5 1 3, 1 2 1, 4 2 5 1, 4 1. Trills: 1 3, 1 3.

System 2: *sempre forte.*, *tr*, *tr*, *tr*, *a)*, *dolce.*, *p*, *f*, *p*, *Re.*. Fingerings: 2, 3 4, 2 1, 2 4 1, 3, 4, 1 3, 4, 5, 4 2.

System 3: *calmando.*, *cresc.*, *Re.*, *(♩ = 116.)*, *M. T.*, *2 3*, *1 2*, *3 2*, ***.

System 4: *rit.*, *p*, *cresc.*, *f*, *a tempo.*, *3 4*, *3*, *1*, *Re.*, ***.

System 5: *3*, *4*, *2*, *4*, *2*, *3*, *1 2*, *p*, *ten.*, *ten.*, *p*, *cresc.*, *sf*, *Re.*, ***.

a) This abrupt *piano* commences simultaneously with the *legato*, i.e., in the right hand; whereas the slackening in the tempo must at first come on very gradually.

a tempo. (♩=132.)

The musical score consists of six systems of staves. The first system begins with a tempo marking of *a tempo.* and a metronome marking of (♩=132.). The music is written for piano, with dynamics ranging from *p* to *f*. The second system includes a *dimin.* marking. The third system features a *cresc.* marking. The fourth system includes a *fp* marking and a section labeled *S.T.*. The fifth system includes a *cantabile.* marking and a section labeled *a) 1*. The sixth system includes a *dimin.* marking. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, slurs, and articulation marks.

a) Here the *crescendo* must begin a measure sooner than in the parallel passage in the first division, both on account of the lower position and the considerable descent in the bass.

a)

cresc.

dimin.

p

sempre leggiero.

espr.

ten.

Cl. T.

mf

ten.

p

poco a poco cresc.

leggiero.

b) *f*

p

f

p

f

Ad.

a) The ascending lines of this passage may regularly take a moderate *crescendo*, the descending ones a *diminuendo*, while observing a general *crescendo* of the whole passage. There should be no lack of animated color in any movement of this sonata.

b) In the alternations of *forte* and *piano* the bass must of course take its share.

The musical score is written for piano and consists of six systems of staves. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, dynamic markings (f, mf, p, pp, cresc., p, f, p, mf, p, p, ten., cresc., ritard., a tempo.), and articulation marks. The key signature is B-flat major. The piece concludes with a "Coda" marking and a "Fin." symbol.

a) From this point the tempo must be frequently modified, for the characteristic expression of the grave and the gay, which continually succeed each other.

a) Like the four preceding measures of the Coda, despite all their animation, this closing *staccato* passage admits of no acceleration. A *stringendo* and *crescendo*, such as the Stuttgart edition requires, appear un-Beethovenish, and neutralize, at all events, the incisiveness of the two final chords.