

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.

p

ten.

a) poco stringendo.

ten.

a tempo.

p

fz

S. T.

dolce scherzando.

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.*

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 treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, trills (tr), and fingerings (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5). Dynamics like *sf*, *f*, *mf*, *p*, *pp*, *fz*, and *ffz* are used throughout. Performance instructions include *cresc.*, *espr. tranquillo.*, *leggiero.*, *a tempo.*, *vivace.*, and *dolce. ten.*. The piece concludes with a Coda section. The tempo changes from 116 to 132 beats per minute.

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 is written for piano and consists of five systems of staves. The notation includes various dynamics (p, pp, f, sf, cresc., marc., dimin.), articulations (trills, accents), and fingerings. The key signature has two flats. The first system shows a trill in the right hand and a rhythmic pattern in the left. The second system has a 'p poco marcato' section. The third system includes a 'cresc.' section and a 'ten.' section. The fourth and fifth systems continue the piece with various textures and dynamics.

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*, *3*, *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.)

p *f* *f* *p* *dimin.* *p* *cresc.* *f* *sf* *fp* *cantabile.* *cresc.* *dimin.*

S.T.

a) 1

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.

Musical notation for piano, featuring various dynamics and tempo markings. The notation includes slurs, ties, and fingerings. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat).

Dynamics and markings include: *f*, *mf*, *cresc.*, *fz p*, *p cresc.*, *tranquillo.*, *Coda.*, *mf*, *p*, *poco ritard.*, *a tempo.*, *pp*, *ten.*, *cresc.*, *ritard.*, *ten.*, and *Ed.*

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.