

SONATA

in C minor

Ludwig van Beethoven

Op. 111

Maestoso. (♩ = 52.)

32. a)

a) This last pianoforte-sonata of the Master is held by some, and not without reason, to be the most perfect among those of the "third" period; for in it a most profound conception is wedded to so plastic a form, that all æsthetico-poetical disquisitions for elucidating its meaning can be regarded as superfluous. Nevertheless, we advise the player to familiarize himself with the thoroughly excellent analysis presented by Herr von Lenz in the work already often quoted by us: "A Critical Catalogue of Beethoven's Works." He quite aptly summarizes his characterization of the two movements in the headings "Resistance—Resignation," or, still better, "Sansara — Nirvana." Let this stand in confutation of Schindler's mischievous and widely disseminated story, that Beethoven dismissed his (Schindler's) advice to compose an additional, triumphant third movement with the not exactly "sublime" answer, that he had no time for it,— he must keep at work on the ninth symphony.— Do not mistake us; we in no way doubt the authenticity of the Master's reply. But consider to whom it was given; admire the angelic moderation that lies in this evasive triviality, when a pointed retort would have been far more relevant. One is almost tempted to congratulate the great composer on his dreadful affliction, in that it at least protected him against an immediate perception of all the disrespect and nonsense wherewith that blockhead was always intent upon molesting his great "friend." Beethoven could answer a person unable to comprehend the two-movement form of Sonatas 53, 54, 78 and 90, only with arguments *ad hominem*, not *ad rem*, to ward off his molestations. With Beethoven the sonata was an instrumental poem. In a technical sense we designate as a sonata that form which was customary for the earlier *Allegros*— i.e., in contrast to the minor dance-forms and song-forms. Op. 111 — the player may rest assured — is no torso, but a perfect musico-plastic organism.

b) The note in the *aufтакт* must be played with just the same energy as the sustained note following it, yet without in the least increasing its time-value; the whole introductory movement should be executed with metronomic precision. The interval of the diminished seventh is the melodic blood which must lend animation to the rhythmic muscle.

c) Let the trill begin in each case on the principal note, so as fully to bring out the rhythmic effect.

d) Execute the arpeggios as rapidly as possible, but with the utmost distinctness and a *crescendo*.

sempre sostenuto.

p a) dimin. - - pp *sempre pp*

cresc. - *f* *sf* *cantabile.* *p*

sf *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf*

pp b)

$\text{♩} = \text{♩ del Moto precedente e poi accelerando al - - - } (\text{♩} = 66.)$

Allegro con brio ed appassionato.

cresc. - *c)* *f* *ff* *d)* *sf*

sf *non legato. mezzo piano. poco riten. nte.* *a tempo.* *meno legato. e)* *cresc. -*

a) Both in this measure and the 3 following, mark the sustained second quarter-note *a trifle*, perhaps with the aid of the pedal.

b) Play the tremolo in the bass without accents, yet making the note-values perfectly clear and precise.

c) In order to avoid anxious haste in the right hand, the second 16th-note may either be omitted or, as is the Editor's practice, taken by the left hand:  which is easier than it seems.

d) Despite the importance of the three motive-notes, and the ponderous energy which their execution demands, the Editor must nevertheless declare himself opposed to any intentional retardation. The rather prolonged hold, together with the *ritardandos* prescribed by the composer in the after-phrase, suffice to satisfy the desire for the strongest possible emphasis of the fore-phrase.

e) In our opinion, these figures should be executed in *non legato* (but not *staccato*) throughout nearly the entire movement.

a) To avoid a break, divide the parts as follows:

b) There is no error here, as some imagine;  would sound effeminate, and although in closer correspondence with both the preceding and following figure as far as the interval is concerned, would be actually incorrect harmonically and melodically.

- a) While the two preceding trills have to begin on the principal note, the player must content himself here with a turn of four notes, which is more easily accommodated to the scale of the left hand: The Editor plays the ensuing passage with a modern fingering better adapted to the phrase: $\overset{2}{\underset{3}{2}}34, 1 \mid \overset{2}{\underset{3}{2}}34, 1 \mid \overset{2}{\underset{3}{2}}34, 1 \mid \overset{2}{\underset{3}{2}}34, 1 \parallel$
- b) If the player have perceptibly accelerated the movement by the close of the first part, he is perfectly justified in so doing; only he must remember to resume the original tempo both at the repetition of the first part and (especially) on commencing the second, whose preponderantly reflective character calls for great moderation. The interrupted rhythmical interjections on the second beat of meas. 2 and 3 of the 2^{da} volta require, in particular, a well-developed feeling for rhythm.

The musical score consists of five systems of staves. The first system begins with a piano introduction marked *più cresc.* and *ff*. The second system features a *ritard.* and a *dan- do* section. The third system includes a *cresc.* and a *ten.* section. The fourth system is marked *a tempo* and *f*. The fifth system is marked *espressivo.* and *dimin.*. The notation includes various dynamics, articulations, and performance instructions.

- a) A trifling *allargando* of this triumphant entrance of the principal theme is justified by and in the energy of the rendering, more especially when the doublings in the octave indicated by small notes are adopted.
- b) "Crescendo" means "begin *piano*", in order that the intensification can be effected in the manner prescribed. The left hand must play lighter than the right.
- c) Notice here, and in all other passages concerned, the distinction between *ritenente* and *ritardando*. The first calls for a sudden drop to a slower rate of speed; the second, a gradual slackening of the pace.
- d) Here the composer relinquishes similar motion in the soprano, not to avoid parallel fifths, but to prevent the unnecessary cacophony of sharp and empty intervals.
- e) Give marked emphasis to the entrance of the motive in B $\flat$ -minor, and 4 measures later in D $\flat$ -major.

Adagio. (♩ = 54) **Tempo I.** *un poco slentando.*

do. dolce. p e tranquillo. cresc. - sf p ten. molto espr.

meno allegro. poco accel. a) ritardando.

b) poi a poi sempre più allegro.

Tempo I.

non legato. p cresc. - ff Risoluto. sf

a) Play the five notes of the quintuplet as evenly as possible; should the player desire a more definite division, it is better to execute the first half as a triplet than contrariwise, so that the same note may not be heard twice as an accented one.

b) The return to the *Tempo primo* must be effected very gradually—extended, precisely as the Author directs, through four measures. Hence we may infer, with regard to the preceding *ritardando*, that this latter should be executed with an almost dragging (flagging) movement.

The musical score consists of six systems of staves. The first system shows a complex melodic line in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. The second system continues the melodic development with various ornaments and trills. The third system is marked *Viracissimo.* and features a series of rapid, repeated notes. The fourth system is marked *in tempo.* and includes a section marked *sostenuto.* with a *legato* marking. The fifth system shows a transition to a more rhythmic pattern. The sixth system concludes the piece with a final chord and a *pp* (pianissimo) marking.

a) The Editor plays the Coda with strict observance of the tempo. The extremely homogeneous character of the composition forbids aught of languishing delay in the movement. The power of "resistance" [comp. the first Note (a)] does not flag—it expires; and thus the fitting mood is reached for the next-following movement, which in our opinion ought to follow without pause.