

Beethoven – Piano Trios, Vol. 3

The Sitkovetsky Trio continues its acclaimed Beethoven series

Sitkovetsky Trio

Alexander Sitkovetsky, violin; Isang Enders, cello; Wu Qian, piano

With the three piano trios published in 1795, Op. 1, **Ludwig van Beethoven** took a genre still largely associated with salon music and raised it up to rival the string quartet. In these works, Beethoven saw the true start of his creative journey. Likely to have been composed (at least in a preliminary version) before his move from his native Bonn to Haydn and Mozart's Vienna, the Trio in E flat major, Op. 1 No. 1, reveals a composer who, while still drawing inspiration from his illustrious elders, begins to display his own witty personality marked by impish, sometimes tigerish playfulness.

Composed about fifteen years later, the two Op. 70 trios 'raise the genre to a level from which the later piano trio literature could move forward' in the words of Beethoven specialist Lewis Lockwood. Indeed, they clearly made a mark on the later trios of Schumann, Brahms and Tchaikovsky. The first of them, played here, is the more significant. Its nickname, 'Ghost', refers to its unsettling central movement characterized by 'horror' writing, displaying a range of chilling effects.

This **Sitkovetsky Trio** recording concludes with an arrangement by the trio's cellist, **Isang Enders**, of a catchy and eloquently simple Ukrainian Cossack tune from a collection of Beethoven's folk song arrangements that Schubert would no doubt have loved.

About Sitkovetsky Trio



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Contents

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827): Piano Trio in D major, 'Ghost', Op. 70 No. 1 (1808) Piano Trio in E flat major, Op. 1 No. 1 (c. 1793–95) Schöne Minka, ich muss scheiden (Air cosaque), arr. Isang Enders (c. 1816)

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