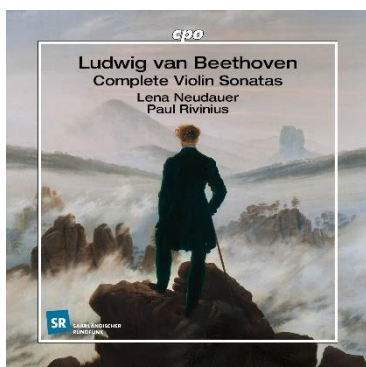


In the spirit of the composer

The Complete Beethoven Sonatas for Piano and Violin with Lena Neudauer and Paul Rivinius

"You reveal a lot about your inner life if you play the way I believe you should. You turn your innermost being outward." (Lena Neudauer)



Above: Box Cover | Below: Booklet Cover

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

CD 1

SONATA NO. 1 IN D MAJOR, OP. 12 No. 1

- [1] Allegro con brio
- [2] Tema con Variazioni. Andante con moto
- [3] Rondo. Allegro

SONATA NO. 2 IN A MAJOR, OP. 12 No. 2

- [4] Allegro vivace
- [5] Andante più tosto Allegretto
- [6] Allegro piacevole

Sonata No. 3 in E flat major, op. 12 No. 3

- [7] Allegro con spirito
- [8] Adagio con molta espressione
- [9] Rondo. Allegro molto

SONATA NO. 4 IN A MINOR, OP. 23

- [10] Presto
- [11] Andante scherzoso, più Allegretto
- [12] Allegro molto

CD 2

SONATA NO. 5 IN F MAJOR, OP. 24 "SPRING SONATA"

- [1] Allegro
- [2] Adagio molto espressivo

[3] Scherzo. Allegro molto

[4] Rondo. Allegro ma non troppo

SONATA NO. 6 IN A MAJOR, OP. 30 No. 1

[5] Allegro

[6] Adagio molto espressivo

[7] Allegretto con Variazioni

SONATA NO. 7 IN C MINOR, OP. 30 No. 2

[8] Allegro con brio

[9] Adagio cantabile

[10] Scherzo. Allegro

[11] Finale. Allegro

CD 3

SONATA NO. 8 IN G MAJOR, OP. 30 No. 3

[1] Allegro assai

[2] Tempo di Minuetto

[3] Allegro vivace

SONATA NO. 9 IN A MAJOR, OP. 47 "KREUTZER SONATA"

[4] Adagio sostenuto. Presto

[5] Andante con Variazioni

[6] Presto

SONATA NO. 10 IN G MAJOR, OP. 96

[7] Allegro moderato

[8] Adagio espressivo

[9] Scherzo

[10] Poco Allegretto

Lena Neudauer Violin | Paul Rivinius piano
cpo classics | Release: 19 June 2025

To this day, Ludwig van Beethoven's sonatas for piano and violin, composed over a period of 15 years in Vienna, are considered a milestone in the genre and widely regarded as the **epitome of the piano and violin duo**. From the very beginning, Beethoven strove for a balanced partnership between the instruments in his duo sonatas, endowing each sonata with its own distinctive features. The early sonatas, Op. 12, already embody the young composer's self-confidence. The magnificent "Spring Sonata" from 1801 is the first sonata with four movements instead of the usual three and captivates with fluid and playful, restless and even somber moments, but also with wit and energy. The famous "Kreutzer Sonata" represents a highpoint of the genre. It is unusual in every respect, with its extreme contrasts in mood and passionate tonal language, and demands from its performers not only technical brilliance and virtuosity but also a fierce creative will. The late tenth and last sonata, on the other hand, is extremely unpretentious, dispensing with any ostentatious elements. Instead, it requires melodic qualities alongside "tenderness and feeling," as Beethoven's student Carl Czerny noted.

And Lena Neudauer has **this special feeling for Beethoven's musical language**. Just in time for the Beethoven Year 2020, she has already recorded Beethoven's Violin Concerto and Romances with Marcus Bosch and the Cappella Aquileia (cpo), thus setting a new standard in the interpretation of Beethoven.

The *Luxemburger Tagblatt* summarized: "Neudauer's playing possesses power and grip; her dark, sometimes even harsh tone allows the rough edges of the work to shine through, only to then, in the next moment, illuminate the very

opposite side of Beethoven's character with a very lyrical, almost song-like playing. (...) There's no doubt that Lena Neudauer is a highly striking interpreter who works entirely in the spirit of the composer and his work," and *Fono Forum* praised her for her "crystalline tone and economical vibrato expression"—one couldn't play Beethoven's Violin Concerto better.

Lena Neudauer, along with her **piano partner Paul Rivinius**, explores the musical world of the ten sonatas with stylistic assurance, technical brilliance, and highly sensitive musicality. Beethoven's multifaceted sonata cycle boasts enormous expressive range and becomes a touchstone for its performers. Neudauer and Rivinius, who share a long-standing chamber music friendship (they recorded a Ravel piece together in 2013), audibly enjoyed this challenge. They create a breathtakingly exciting dialogue between violin and piano, capturing all the dynamic nuances, emphasizing both the dance-like elements and intimate moments, and demonstrating a sense for Beethoven's intelligent wit, his rhythmic complexity, ornamentation, and melodic treasures. Moreover, they possess the stamina that sustains the nearly four-hour performance.

A reviewer at *pizzicato* described them as "Supersonic", because they "shape the sonatas as elegant structures, [...] they succeed in presenting the works in a balanced way, but above all in their interaction." One must "understand the familiarity as an exciting and inspiring interaction."

BIOGRAPHY

Lena Neudauer began playing the violin at the age of three. At eleven, she was accepted into Helmut Zehetmair's class at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. Four years later, the 15-year-old won the Leopold Mozart Competition in Augsburg and also received numerous special prizes. Lena Neudauer consciously decided against a child prodigy career and chose her career path carefully. In 2010, her debut CD was released by Hänssler Classic: a complete recording of Robert Schuman's works for violin and orchestra with the German Radio Philharmonic under Pablo Gänzalez. The album won the International Classical Music Award (ICMA) for Best Concerto Recording. A chamber music CD with works by Maurice Ravel followed in 2013; even then, Lena Neudauer was working with Paul Rivinius and cellist Julian Steckel. In 2014, Lena Neudauer recorded Mozart's complete violin concertos with the German Radio Philharmonic under Bruno Weil (Hänssler Classic). At the age of 26, she was appointed professor of violin at the Saar University of Music, and since 2016 she has held a professorship at the University of Music and Theatre in Munich.

As a versatile chamber musician, Lena Neudauer collaborates with partners such as Julian Steckel, Julia Fischer, Matthias Kirschner, Herbert Schuch, Lauma Skride, William Youn, and Nils Mönckemeyer. Lena Neudauer performs with numerous renowned orchestras, including the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, the Orchestre National de Belgique, the Orchestre de chambre de Paris, and many others.

 **Julia Mauritz**

Lindenstraße 14
50674 Köln

+49 (0)221 - 168 796 24
julia.mauritz@schimmer-pr.de
www.schimmer-pr.de