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BEETHOVEN

Andante favori

Boris Giltburg, Piano



Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Andante, WoO 57, 'Andante favori'

The '*Andante favori*', WoO 57 was originally intended to be the slow movement of the *Sonata No. 21, Op. 53 'Waldstein'*. Beethoven's friend and student Ferdinand Ries wrote: 'In the sonata (in C major, Op. 53) ... there was originally a grand Andante. A friend of Beethoven's expressed his opinion that the sonata was too long, whereupon he was frightfully reprimanded by Beethoven. Only calmer consideration soon convinced my teacher of the truth of the remark. He then published the grand Andante in F major, in 3/8 time, on its own, and later composed the interesting Introduction to the rondo, that is now found in it.'

The *Andante* was published separately a year later and, according to Carl Czerny, Beethoven's student and biographer, was often played by Beethoven in society, earning it its nickname *favori* (favourite). It is a beautiful long rondo with a complex nested form, elegant and warm in character, exploring a graceful motif with increasingly elaborate variations.

Boris Giltburg

Boris Giltburg



Photo: Oliver Binns

Pianist Boris Giltburg is lauded across the globe as a deeply sensitive, insightful and compelling musician. Born in 1984 in Moscow, he moved to Tel Aviv at an early age, studying with his mother and then with Arie Vardi. He went on to win numerous awards, notably the First (and Audience) Prize at the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels in 2013. Giltburg has appeared with leading orchestras worldwide such as the Philharmonia, London Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, NHK Symphony, WDR Cologne, Oslo Philharmonic, Czech Philharmonic, St Petersburg Philharmonic, and Baltimore and Seattle symphonies. He made his Australian debut in 2017 and has frequently toured China and South America. Since his BBC Proms debut in 2010 he has appeared at many of the major festivals, and has played recitals at Carnegie Hall, Concertgebouw

Amsterdam, Southbank Centre and Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, to name a few. In 2021 he began performing the complete solo works of Ravel at Wigmore Hall and Bozar/Flagey in Brussels. In 2020 he undertook to learn and record on audio and audiovisual all 32 Beethoven sonatas, coinciding with the first volume of the complete Beethoven piano concertos, recorded with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Vasily Petrenko, with whom he previously recorded both Shostakovich concertos, winning a Diapason d'Or. This recording also featured his own arrangement of Shostakovich's *String Quartet No. 8* for solo piano. The first volume in his complete Rachmaninov concerto recordings series, coupled with the *Études-Tableaux* and subsequently the *Corelli Variations* and performed with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Carlos Miguel Prieto, won the award for Best Solo Recording at the inaugural Opus Klassik Awards. His recital discs of Rachmaninov, Liszt and Schumann have been similarly well received. Boris is an avid amateur photographer and blogger, writing about classical music for a non-specialist audience. www.borispiltburg.com

The *Andante favori* was originally intended to be the slow movement of the *Sonata No. 21, Op. 53 'Waldstein'* until Beethoven was convinced by a friend's suggestion that the sonata was too long. This elegant and warm piece was often played by Beethoven at society gatherings, earning the nickname *favori* (favourite). This digital single complements Boris Giltburg's album of *Piano Concerto No. 5 'Emperor'* with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Vasily Petrenko, and the original piano reduction of the *Piano Concerto No. 0, WoO 4* (8.574153).

Ludwig van
BEETHOVEN
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1 **Andante in F major, WoO 57**
'Andante favori' (c. 1803–04)

8:54

Boris Giltburg, Piano

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