

LVB
250

BEETHOVEN

COMPLETE CELLO SONATAS 1-5

AILBHE MCDONAGH, CELLO

JOHN O'CONOR, PIANO



STEINWAY & SONS



Irish cellist **AILBHE MCDONAGH** is an international soloist, chamber musician and composer who performs throughout Europe, Asia and the USA. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music and the Royal Irish Academy of Music, she studied with world-renowned cellists Steven Doane, Nora Gilleese, Aisling Drury-Byrne and William Butt.

McDonagh gave her debut recital with celebrated Irish pianist John O'Connor at the National Concert Hall in Dublin, Ireland. "Out of several performances of the Beethoven A major sonata heard over 30 years, McDonagh's was the most musically complete and satisfying" (The Irish Times).

As a chamber musician, she performs in a duo, The McDonagh Sisters, with pianist Orla McDonagh. She is also a member of the Ficino Ensemble and the crossover traditional Irish music group Trio Elatha, where she plays traditional Irish music on the cello.

McDonagh is also an established composer with numerous compositions and commissions to her name. Boosey & Hawkes, London published two books of her piano music entitled "It's a Piano Thing" and more recently "It's a Cello Thing," two books of her pedagogical pieces for cello. Further works for cello include a solo suite commissioned by the Arts Council of Ireland and the title piece for her recent Skellig album for cello and piano. McDonagh has also been published by ABRSM, RIAM and Hal Leonard.

McDonagh joined the cello faculty of the RIAM in 2010 and she enjoys regular invitations to give masterclasses. Previous albums include It's a Cello Thing (2012 CD of the week on RTE Lyric FM) and Skellig (2020 Irish Examiner, Top Picks of the Year). She performs on a Postacchini cello.



The Irish pianist **JOHN O'CONOR** has been gathering wonderful reviews for his masterly playing for over forty years. "A pianist of unbounding sensitivity" (Gramophone); "He represents a vanishing tradition that favors inner expression and atmosphere over showmanship and bravura" (Chicago Tribune); "Impeccable technique and musicality ... it would be hard to imagine better performances" (Sunday Times - London); "This artist has the kind of flawless touch that makes an audience gasp" (Washington Post); "Exquisite playing" (New York Times).

O'Connor studied in his native Dublin, in Vienna with Dieter Weber, and was tutored by the legendary Wilhelm Kempff. His unanimous 1st Prize at the International Beethoven Piano Competition in Vienna in 1973 opened the door to a career that has brought him all around the world.

O'Connor's recordings of the complete Beethoven Piano Sonatas led CD Review to say that he "by now should be recognized as the world's premier Beethoven interpreter" and his recent recordings of the complete Beethoven Piano Concertos with the London Symphony Orchestra and Andreas Delfs have also been greeted with acclaim. He recently released three CDs on the Steinway & Sons label: Beethoven's Diabelli Variations and two volumes of Haydn Sonatas. He has also been featured on tonebase.com with videos on teaching and discussing Beethoven and Haydn Sonatas.

A Steinway Artist, O'Connor is Chair of the Piano Division at Shenandoah University in Virginia, Professor of Piano at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Distinguished Visiting Artist at the TU Dublin Conservatoire of Music and Visiting Professor at Showa University in Japan.

For his services to music O'Connor has been decorated "Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" by the French Government, awarded the "Ehrenkreuz für Wissenschaft und Kunst" by the Austrian Government, the "Order of the Rising Sun" by the Emperor of Japan, and has received many other awards.

BEETHOVEN

Complete Cello Sonatas 1 - 5

Recorded August 2 - 6 2020 at St. Peter's Church, Drogheda, Ireland.

Producer: Orla McDonagh

Engineer: Ben Rawlins

Executive Producers: Eric Feidner, Jon Feidner

Art Direction: Jackie Fugere

Piano: Steinway Model D # 544371

Design: Cover to Cover Design, Anilda Carrasquillo

Production Assistant: Renée Oakford

Photograph of Ailbhe McDonagh: Marshall Light Studio

Photograph of John O'Connor: Hugh O'Connor

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

Complete Cello Sonatas 1 - 5

Ailbhe McDonagh, cello | John O'Connor, piano

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DISC 1

Cello Sonata No. 1 in F major, Op. 5 No. 1

- 1 I. Adagio sostenuto - Allegro 17:36
- 2 II. Allegro vivace 7:11

Cello Sonata No. 2 in G minor, Op. 5 No. 2

- 3 I. Adagio sostenuto ed espressivo 15:53
- 4 II. Rondo: Allegro 9:18

Playing Time: 50:00

DISC 2

Cello Sonata No. 3 in A major, Op. 69

- 1 I. Allegro ma non tanto 13:10
- 2 II. Allegro molto 5:42
- 3 III. Adagio cantabile - Allegro vivace 9:01

Cello Sonata No. 4 in C major, Op. 102 No. 1

- 4 I. Andante - Allegro vivace 7:29
- 5 II. Adagio - Allegro vivace 7:09

Cello Sonata No. 5 in D major, Op. 102 No. 2

- 6 I. Allegro con brio 6:50
- 7 II. Adagio con molto sentimento d'affetto 8:27
- 8 III. Allegro - Allegro fugato 4:27

Playing Time: 62:17



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