



# Beethoven

by Special Arrangement

SONOLUMINA ENSEMBLE

## BEETHOVEN BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

With this album we are proud to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Ludwig van Beethoven.

Composers from Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 -1750) to Igor Stravinsky (1882 -1976) have arranged their own music and the music of their peers to suit their specific needs. Bach not only arranged his own music but whole violin concertos of Antonio Vivaldi for organ solo. Perhaps he did this for his own study purposes or to present the pieces to an audience without the expense of having to pay an orchestra and soloists. In the 20th Century, Igor Stravinsky made his own arrangements of the Canonic Variations on "Vom Himmel hoch da komm' ich her" by Bach for orchestra and chorus, as well as his own "Concertino for String Quartet" for various other instruments and his stage piece "L'histoire du Soldat" for piano, violin and clarinet. His main interest in doing so was to collect royalties on the new arrangements. Later, in 1981, composer Ramiro Cortes arranged Stravinsky's aforementioned "Concertino" for a small ensemble that included harpsichord. Cortes was in the process of arranging his own Trio for Clarinet, Cello and Piano (1981) as a clarinet sonata. Because of his untimely death in 1984, he was unable to complete the sonata.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) made arrangements of his Second Symphony for piano trio, the Septet Op. 20 as a trio for piano, clarinet and cello (numbering it Op. 38) and the Op. 16 Quintet for Piano and Woodwind Quartet as a quartet for piano and string trio as another Op. 16. These arrangements were most likely made at the request of Beethoven's publisher, again for the the purpose of selling more copies to amateur musicians. Contemporaries of Beethoven Johann Nepomuk Hummel (1778-1837) and Ferdinand Ries (1784-1838) also made arrangements for small chamber ensembles of some of the Beethoven symphonies. In a later era, Franz Liszt (1811-1886) made arrangements for piano of all of Beethoven's nine symphonies.

Beethoven's Piano Trio Op.1, No.1 in Eb, the first in a set of three, was written in 1795. Beethoven was already well known as a virtuoso pianist in Vienna at that time and his Piano Trios, Opus 1, were intended to introduce him to Viennese musical society as a composer. The style is youthful and the music full of humor in the vein of Joseph Haydn with whom Beethoven was studying at the time. The Op.1, No.1 Trio is especially adaptable to the clarinet since Beethoven did not write many double stops and composed the violin part in a lower register, suiting the clarinet range very well. The viola part, taking over for the cello in this recording, generates a lighter quality to the texture, adding a perfect balance to the ensemble.

Beethoven's Variations on 'Là ci darem la mano', WoO 28, from the opera Don Giovanni by Mozart, was originally composed by Beethoven for two oboes and english horn. The present arrangement for clarinet and piano was made in 1940 by the eminent clarinetist Simeon Bellison. Bellison was Principal Clarinetist of the New York Philharmonic from 1920 to 1948 and was prominent as a clarinet virtuoso, arranger and teacher.

Beethoven's Quintet for Piano and Winds, Opus 16 was his answer to Mozart's popular "Quintet for Piano and Winds K452", also in the key of Eb. Later, Beethoven arranged his own quintet as a quartet for piano and strings under the same opus number, perhaps as a second thought to having it be a mere imitation of Mozart's work. The piece works wonderfully with the clarinet standing in for the violin, giving the arrangement more varied color possibilities by combining the textures and colors of both the woodwind and string instrumentations.

## **Russell Harlow**

Clarinetist Russell Harlow was born in Los Angeles. He studied first with clarinetist Gary Foster and Mitchell Lurie, and at the age of twenty-one, joined the Utah Symphony where he served as Associate Principal Clarinet. After 41 years, Harlow retired from the Utah Symphony to pursue his solo, chamber music and recording career. He also studied with Harold Wright, the late Principal Clarinet with the Boston Symphony, and with violinist Charles Libove. During July 2007, Harlow performed at the International Clarfest in Vancouver, BC.

Harlow turned the work he had originally planned for an interactive DVD-Rom history of the clarinet into the website [ClarinetCentral.com](http://ClarinetCentral.com).

Clarinetist Russell Harlow is also featured on two additional critically-acclaimed Sonolumina Ensemble recordings produced by ISOMIKE: "Works for Clarinets and Strings" featuring works by Ingolf Dahl, Bohuslav Martinu and Karel Husa (Available through [ISOMIKE.com](http://ISOMIKE.com)) and, just released in August 2020, "Mozart and Romantic Encores for Clarinet and Strings" featuring the Mozart Clarinet Quintet and beautiful single movement works by Taneyev, Schumann, Tchiakovsky, Glazunov and Baermann. This album is available for download on [NativeDSD.com](http://NativeDSD.com).

## **Leslie Harlow**

Violist Leslie Harlow is the Founder and Co-Director of the Park City Beethoven Festival and over the years has performed in chamber concerts with many of the finest artists of this era. A graduate of the Juilliard School, Leslie Harlow performed in master classes for William Primrose, Paul Doktor, Donald McGinnis, Heidi Castleman and Nabuko Imai. Her primary teachers were Marna Street, Susan Schoenfeld, Paul Doktor, and violinist Harry Shub with additional lessons with Heidi Castleman, Donald Wright and Francis Tursi. Ms. Harlow studied chamber music with coaches including Felix Galimer, Samuel Rhodes, Claus Adam, Paul Doktor, Charles Castleman, Robert Sylvester and Julius Baker. Following graduation from Juilliard, Ms. Harlow moved to Utah and, in 1984, founded the Deer Valley (Utah) Chamber Music Festival in Park City, Utah. Renamed the Park City Beethoven Festival, the Festival continues as Utah's oldest classical music festival, and, as of 2016, the Festival has presented nearly 700 festival chamber concerts. Leslie Harlow also founded and directs the Park City Film Music Festival. As an active recording artist in both chamber music and in commercial studio work, Ms. Harlow's viola solos can be heard on a number of feature film and television soundtracks including "Murder in the First" and "Surviving Picasso." In 2015 Ms. Harlow presented the collegiate level viola master class at the National American String Teachers Association Convention along with serving as a judge for the collegiate solo competition. Leslie and her husband, clarinetist Russell Harlow, perform recitals throughout the year including performing for senior retirement homes. In addition to much performing in Utah, the Harlows are often invited to perform at festivals and on concert series. Those series, festivals and conventions have included the Bargemusic Series in New York, international clarinet festivals in Baltimore, Utah, Vancouver (CA), Puerto Rico and Texas, the Lyrica and Ars Nova Series in New Jersey, chamber festivals in Colorado, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, Alaska, and for the Piatigorsky Foundation of New York. Representing the Beethoven Festival, the Harlows recently presented a concert in New York hosted by the Bargemusic Series.

## **Hsiang Tu**

Praised by The New York Times for his “eloquent sensitivity” and The Boston Intelligencer for his “impeccable technique,” pianist Hsiang Tu has graced the audience with his creative programming and wide range of repertoire. Dr. Tu is currently working on the complete cycle of piano solo works by Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel and thematic recitals featuring animal-themed music and opus-one compositions. Born in Taipei, Taiwan, he debuted in New York at Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center as the winner of The Juilliard School Concerto Competition, and he has performed in venues all over the world, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, National Museum Cardiff, and National Recital Hall in Taipei.

A prize winner at the New Orleans International Piano Competition, the Iowa International Piano Competition, and the American Paderewski Piano Competition, Mr. Tu has appeared with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Sioux City Symphony Orchestra, and the World Civic Orchestra, among others. He has given master classes at Cardiff University, University of Southern California, Penn State University, Loyola University New Orleans, Utah Valley University, and Colorado Mesa University.

Before being appointed as an Assistant Professor of Piano at Virginia Tech, Dr. Tu taught at the University of New Hampshire, Utah Valley University, and Snow College. He studied with Hung-Kuan Chen, Jerome Lowenthal, and HaeSun Paik, and holds a B.M. in Piano Performance from the University of Calgary and an M.M. and D.M.A. in Piano Performance from The Juilliard School. His debut solo CD, *Bestiary on Ivory*, has recently been released by Bridge Records. For more info, please visit [hsiangjohntu.com](http://hsiangjohntu.com).

## **Julie Bevan**

Julie Bevan has had a diverse career as a cellist and teacher throughout the United States. A native of Utah, she received her music training at Brigham Young University and later at the University of Southern California, where she received a master of music degree as a member of the master class of legendary cellist Gregor Piatigorsky. An experienced performer, Ms. Bevan has played with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra under Sir Neville Marriner and was principal cellist of the Chicago String Ensemble for 15 seasons, appearing frequently as soloist and was also a member of the prestigious Storioni Ensemble (in residence at Northwestern University). She was principal cellist of the Sinfonia da Camera at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana and on the faculties of North Park College, Northeastern University and Eastern Illinois University. Ms. Bevan was formerly the principal cellist of the Orchestra at Temple Square and was most recently a member of Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra in Chicago.

As a chamber musician, Ms. Bevan performed with the Chicago Ensemble for 12 seasons, was cellist of the Fontenelle String Quartet, the Testore Piano Trio, and performed with the Deseret String Quartet from 1982-1988, which was in residence at Brigham Young University at that time. She was Associate Professor of cello and chamber music at BYU and a member of the Deseret Piano Trio in residence there from 2000 until 2012. She can be heard on the recording entitled Israeli Melodies on the Centaur label and recording of Robert Cundick's Sonata for Cello and Piano on the Tantara label. Ms. Bevan has owned and performed on a Carlo Giuseppe Testore cello made in 1721 since 1971.

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## **Piano Trio in Eb Opus 1 No.1** (Arranged for piano, clarinet, & viola by Russell & Leslie Harlow)

- 1: Allegro
- 2: Adagio
- 3: Scherzo: Allegro assai
- 4: Finale: Presto

## **Variations on 'Là ci darem la mano' from Don Giovanni by Mozart, WoO 28 for two oboes and english horn** (Arranged by Simeon Bellison for clarinet and piano - 1940)

- 1: Thema: Andante
- 2: Variation I Allegretto
- 3: Variation II L'istesso tempo
- 4: Variation III Andante
- 5: Variation IV Allegro moderato
- 6: Variation V Moderato
- 7: Variation VI Lento Espressivo
- 8: Variation VII Allegretto scherzando
- 9: Variation VIII Allegretto giocoso
- 10: Coda: Vivace

## **Piano Quartet Op 16 in Eb** (Arranged for piano, clarinet, viola, & cello by Russell Harlow)

- 1: Grave- Allegro ma non troppo
- 2: Andante cantabile
- 3: Rondo: Allegro ma non troppo

Producer: Ray Kimber

Recording Engineer: Aaron Hubbard

Mastering: Aaron Hubbard

**isoMike**<sup>™</sup>