



Ludwig van Beethoven: The Complete Piano Sonatas

aud 21.451

EAN: 4022143214515



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ionarts.blogspot.com (jfl - 01.12.2017)

Quelle: <http://ionarts.blogspot.com/2014/12/beet...>

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Beethoven Sonatas – A Survey of Complete Cycles Part 9, 2014-2016

[...] A Munich-based project from Audite; a bit of a surprise of a release that smells of "Executive-producer-knows-pianist-in-question-very-well". Perhaps he uncovered a gem; I have not found any reviews yet. The pianist uses a Steinway D. He teaches at Munich's University of Music and Performing Arts and his bio professes a love for complete cycles of music.

This listing of all Beethoven Sonata Cycles will continue as more sets reach completion or as I find more information about sets already completed.* There are certainly plenty sets under way that should or may reach completion soon: Among them Angela Hewitt (Hyperion), Igor Tchetuev (Caro Mitis), Jonathan Biss (Onyx), Akihiro Sakiya (DPIC Entertainment), Martin Roscoe (Deux-Elles), James Brawn (MSR), Paavali Jumppanen (Ondine) [Completed & Added], Yusuke Kikuchi (Triton) [Completed & Added] et al. I will also add a selection of historically important attempted cycles that were never finished but include >20 >9 sonatas. That would add Rudolf Serkin (CBS, 10 sonatas missing), Bruce Hungerford (Vanguard / Piano Classics, also 10 sonatas missing), Emil Gilels (DG, opp. 2/1, 14/1, 54, 78, 111), and Glenn Gould (CBS/Sony, opp. 7, 22, 49, 53, 79, 81a, 90 missing, op. 106 separate, opp. 7 [partly], 49/1, 101 available on CBC recordings). There are seemingly abandoned cycles that will not be included, such as those of Giovanni Belluci, Bruno Leonardo Gelber, Yoshihiro Kondo, or Per Tengstrand. There are cycles that are unworthy of discussion or outright fraudulent, i.e. not actual piano playing and/or of excruciating quality and/or cobbled together from other performances. Most famously Joyce Hatto, but apparently also Vladimir Morrone, Giancarlo Andretti, Alicja Kot, and Claudio Colombo.**

*If you count, as I did, Backhaus II and Arrau II as complete, despite one and two (respectively) missing sonatas. I do not count Walter Gieseking (tapes of 4, 5, 7, 20, 22 for a radio cycle are lost, a studio cycle for EMI was missing seven sonatas when he died), Wilhelm Kempff "0" (Polydor, opp. 2/3, 22, 27/1, 28, 31/2, 101 missing).

**Invaluable research on this end done by Todd, resident Beethoven-Sonata expert



(and addict) at the Good Music Guide Forum.



Martin Rasch

2014 - 2016 - Audite

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Availability:

Country / Label	USA	UK	France	Germany
Audite Forum	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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