



## Press Release



### BEETHOVEN THE LAST SONATAS

**Gerardo Teissonnière Performs  
Beethoven's Op. 109, 110 & 111 on  
a new recording from Steinway &  
Sons, out March 4, 2022**

*“The last three piano sonatas of  
Beethoven represent a pinnacle in  
artistic achievement and the triumph of  
the human spirit over adversity.”*  
**Gerardo Teissonnière**

NEW YORK, NY – February 1, 2022 – On March 4, 2022, **Steinway & Sons** will release *The Last Sonatas of Beethoven, Op. 109, 110, and 111*, marking pianist [Gerardo Teissonnière](#)'s debut on the label. Teissonnière – who began his musical studies in Puerto Rico and now resides in Cleveland where he is on faculty of the Cleveland Institute of Music – began performing all of Beethoven's works for piano and orchestra in 2019, presenting a series of solo recitals featuring works by and dedicated to the composer's 250th anniversary in 2020. The album was recorded during the pandemic on a Steinway & Sons Model D, with the GRAMMY® Award-winning team of producer Elaine Martone, editor Erica Brenner, and sound engineer Daniel Shores at the helm. Teissonnière has been praised for **“outstanding pianism, rich in dynamic sonorities, poetry and tonal beauty,”** by the *San Juan Star* and for **“extraordinary musicianship and rare sensibility”** by *El Nuevo Día*.

Though these final three of Beethoven's thirty-two piano sonatas were independently published, they are often seen as forming a unified cycle. Beethoven himself said he composed them “in a single breath,” despite their being written over the span of two years, from 1820-22. Beethoven would've been almost completely deaf at the time of writing these intimate and transcendental works. Characterized by the composer's departure from

conventional form, variation and fugue both play significant roles in these sonatas, along with completely free and almost improvisatory passages, and bolder, more daring harmonies and textures.

**“The last three piano sonatas of Ludwig van Beethoven represent a pinnacle in artistic achievement and the triumph of the human spirit over adversity, and constitute the closing chapter in one of the most important legacies in the solo instrumental literature by any composer,” says Teissonnière.** “With this unique triptych, the last sonatas he wrote for any instrument, Beethoven extended the limits of musical and pianistic convention and imagination, introducing new technical and tonal elements to the instrument and changing the traditional boundaries of the classical sonata form for future generations of composers. Together, they comprise one of the most challenging, enjoyable, and rewarding solo recital programs I take great pleasure in sharing with my audiences.”

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## **THE LAST SONATAS**

**Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)**

**Gerardo Teissonnière, piano**

**I. Sonata No. 30 in E major, Op. 109**

**II. Sonata No. 31 in A flat major, Op. 110**

**III. Sonata No. 32 in C minor, Op. 111**

**Recorded September 7-9, 2021 at Sono Luminus Studios, Boyce Virginia**

**Recording Producer:** Elaine Martone, Sonarc Music

**Editing:** Erica Brenner and Daniel Shores

**Recording, Mixing and Mastering Engineer:** Daniel Shores

**Executive Producers:** Eric Feidner, Jon Feidner

**Art Direction:** Jackie Fugere

**Design: Cover to Cover Design,** Anilda Carrasquillo

**Photography:** Dario Acosta

**Production Assistant:** Renée Oakford

**Piano:** Steinway & Sons Model D #590904, **Piano Technician:** John Veitch

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## **About Gerardo Teissonnière**

Regarded by international audiences and critics as an artist of extraordinary musicianship and rare sensibility since his American solo recital debut at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., pianist Gerardo Teissonnière brings to the concert stage an exciting amalgam of the diverse and important musical traditions he represents. From the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado and Lincoln Center in New York to concert halls in Asia, Europe, North and Latin America, Mr. Teissonnière has appeared in recital and as soloist with orchestra, in duo-piano and chamber music performances, and in radio and television broadcasts throughout the world.

Concert season highlights include his solo recital debuts in Munich and Vienna, as well as solo and chamber music performances in Italy, in the United States with members of The Cleveland Orchestra, an appearance at the Teatro

Nacional de Costa Rica, a performance for an audience of twenty thousand and a solo recital at the Diaoyucheng International Music Festival in Chongqing, China, his solo recital and concerto debuts in Beijing, and all-Chopin concerts in Poland. In 2019 Mr. Teissonnière began performing all of Beethoven's works for piano and orchestra, and presented a series of solo recitals featuring works by and dedicated to the composer's 250th anniversary in December of 2020. Upcoming season highlights include return engagements in Austria (Barocksaal in Vienna), Germany, and Italy, and his Paris solo recital debut in October of 2022 featuring the music of Beethoven, Chopin, and Debussy.

During the worldwide Schubert Bicentennial celebrations, Mr. Teissonnière presented a series of critically acclaimed solo recitals dedicated to the works of the Viennese composer. While highly regarded since for his interpretations of the Classical repertoire, he has presented local, American, and world première performances of music by twentieth century and contemporary composers such as Pablo Casals, Aaron Copland, Alberto Ginastera, Osvaldo Golioy, Lowell Liebermann, Darius Milhaud, and Arvo Pärt.

Gerardo Teissonnière is the recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award and the Arthur Loesser Performance Prize from the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Judson Smart Living Award in Education, and multiple nominations for the Ohio Arts Council's Governor's Award for the Arts.

Mr. Teissonnière began his musical training at an early age in Puerto Rico. Conservatory studies followed with two disciples of Artur Schnabel and Alfred Cortot, Jesús María Sanromá and Steinway Immortal Vitya Vronsky Babin at the Cleveland Institute of Music. At the Aspen Music Festival he worked with Jeaneane Dows and Samuel Lipman and in Europe with Dmitri Bashkirov. An exclusive Steinway Artist, Mr. Teissonnière is on the Artist Roster of the Si-Yo Music Society Foundation in New York.

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**Journalists and Program Directors:** To audition the recording for review or radio airplay, please contact:

Rebecca Davis

Rebecca Davis Public Relations

[Rebecca@rebeccadavispr.com](mailto:Rebecca@rebeccadavispr.com)

347-432-8832