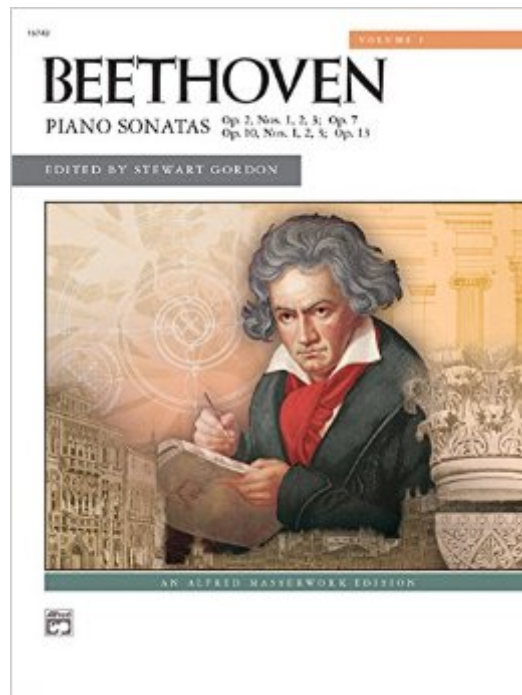


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Beethoven -- Piano Sonatas, Vol 1: Nos. 1-8 (Alfred Masterwork Edition)



Synopsis

Beethoven wrote 32 sonatas for piano. Volume 1, edited by Stewart Gordon, includes the first 8 sonatas (Op. 2, Nos. 1-3; Op. 7; Op. 10, Nos. 1-3; and Op. 13 ["Pathétique"]), written between 1795 and 1799. Since these autographs no longer exist, this edition is based on the first editions, published by various Viennese engravers. Dr. Gordon discusses a variety of topics including Beethoven's life; the pianos of his time and their limitations; Beethoven's use of articulation, ornamentation, tempo; and the age-old challenge of attempting to determine the definitive interpretation of Beethoven's music. Valuable performance recommendations, helpful fingering suggestions and ornament realizations are offered in this comprehensive critical body of Beethoven's sonatas. Where performance options are open to interpretation, other editors' conclusions are noted, enabling students and teachers to make informed performance decisions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a really outstanding edition of the first 8 Beethoven piano sonatas. The editor has provided a ton of useful information - for example on how to execute individual ornaments. The only thing preventing me from giving it 5 stars is the binding. Why they didn't comb bind it is beyond me. I own an Alfred edition of Bach's 2 and 3 part inventions (a much slimmer edition than the Beethoven) which is nicely comb bound and sits flat against the piano stand. The Beethoven, on the other hand, must be held back with the aid of one of those metal "M"-shaped thingies, which runs the risk of

being flung across the room like shrapnel from the potential energy being stored in the piano score.

The binding is very good. The print is large and clear (black print on white background). The commentary is also very useful, interesting, and helpful. Finger positions seem appropriate.

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