Beethoven and Schubert: The Sonatas and Quartets

For Beethoven, the sonata was his laboratory or workshop. It was the genre in which he experimented with his most audacious and original ideas, while the quartet decisively marks the culmination of each of his “three periods.” Schubert’s sonatas and quartets express his utterly complementary character in regard to Beethoven. Works such as “Rosamunde,” “Death and the Maiden,” and the final valedictory sonata trilogy represent the charming Viennese lilt tinged with death that is perhaps Schubert’s most compelling characteristic.

Week 1
Schubert: The first 5 Piano Sonatas (1815-17)
Beethoven: Piano Sonatas op. 2 (1795)
Schubert: “Domestic” String Quartets (1812-13)
-break-
Featured Works: Beethoven: Piano Sonatas op. 7 (1797); String Quartet op. 18 No. 3 (1800)

Week 2
Beethoven: Sonatas op. 10 (1798)
Schubert: Sonatas 6-8 (1817-18)
-break-
Featured Works: Schubert: Quartet Nr. 9 (1815); Beethoven: Quartet op. 18 No. 5 (1800)

Week 3
Beethoven: Sonatas, op. 13,14,22 (1799-1800)
Schubert: Sonata No. 9 (1818)
-break-
Featured Works: Beethoven: Quartet op. 59, No. 2 (1806); Schubert (“Reliquie”) (1825)

Week 4
Schubert: Quartets op. 125 (1817)
Beethoven: Sonatas, op. 27 and op. 28 (1801)
-break-
Featured Works: Beethoven: Sonatas, op. 31 (1802)

Week 5
Schubert: Sonatas (1825-26) A minor, D, And G major
-break-
Featured Works: Beethoven: Quartets op. 74 (1809) and op. 95 (1810)

Week 6
Schubert: Quartett-Satz (1820)
Beethoven: Sonatas, op. 29 (1824)
-break-
Featured Works: Beethoven: Sonata op. 57 (1805); Quartet op. 106 (1819)

Weeks 7-8
Late Styles in Beethoven and Schubert
Beethoven: Sonatas op. 109, 110, 111; Quartets op. 127, 130, 131, 132, 135 (1820-1826)
Schubert: Quartets “Death and the Maiden” and No. 15 (1826); Three Final Piano Sonatas (1828)
Recommended Readings

Cambridge Companion to the String Quartet
Karl Geiringer, Haydn
Paul Griffiths, The String Quartet: A History
Joseph Kerman, The Beethoven String Quartets
Charles Rosen, The Classical Style

Alfred Brendel, Musical Thoughts and Afterthoughts
William Kinderman, Beethoven
Charles Rosen, Beethoven’s Piano Sonatas: A Short Companion
Charles Rosen, The Classical Style: Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven
Charles Rosen, Sonata Forms
Artur Schnabel, My Life and Music
Robert Taub, Playing the Beethoven Piano Sonatas

Chronology of the Schubert Piano Sonatas

1815
Sonata in E, D. 157 (Feb.)
Sonata in C, D. 279 (Sept.)

1816-17
(compilation of incomplete movements from sonatas published as “Five Piano Pieces”)

1817
Sonata in a, D. 537
Sonata in A-flat, D. 557
Sonata in e, D. 566 (incomplete, the ordering of movements and number of movements is uncertain)
Sonata in E-flat, D. 568 (there is a D-flat version of this piece, D. 567, apparently superceded by D. 568)
Sonata in B, D. 575 (perhaps completed in 1818)

1818
Sonata in f, D. 625 (incomplete)

1819
Sonata in A, D. 664

1823
Sonata in a, D. 784

1825
Sonata in C, D. 840, “Reliquie” (incomplete)
Sonata in a, D. 845
Sonata in D, D. 850

1826
Sonata in G, D. 894

1828
Sonata in c, D. 958
Sonata in A, D. 959
Sonata in B-flat, D. 960
### Chronology of the Beethoven Piano Sonatas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Composition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1782-83</td>
<td>3 Sonatas WoO 47 (E-flat, f, D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1795</td>
<td>3 Sonatas Op. 2 (Nos. 1-3, f, A, C)</td>
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<td>1796</td>
<td>Sonata Op. 49, No. 2 (No. 20, G)</td>
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<td>1796-97</td>
<td>Sonata Op. 7 (No. 4, E-flat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1796-98</td>
<td>3 Sonatas Op. 10 (Nos. 5-7, c, f, D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1798</td>
<td>Sonata Op. 49, No. 1 (No. 19, g)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1798-99</td>
<td>Sonata “Pathetique” Op. 13 (No. 8, c)   2 Sonatas, Op. 14 (Nos. 9-10, E, G)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1800-01</td>
<td>Sonata Op. 22 (No. 11, B-flat)  Sonata Op. 26 (No. 12, A-flat)</td>
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<td>2 Sonatas Op. 27 “Sonatas Quasi una Fantasia” (Nos. 13-14, E-flat, c-sharp)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1801</td>
<td>Sonata op. 28 (No. 15, D)</td>
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<td>1801-02</td>
<td>3 Sonatas Op. 31 (Nos. 16-18, G, d, E-flat)</td>
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<td>1803-04</td>
<td>Sonata Op. 53 “Waldstein” (No. 21, C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1804</td>
<td>Sonata, Op. 54 (No. 22, F)  Sonata, Op. 57 “Appassionata” (No. 23, f)</td>
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<td>1809</td>
<td>Sonata Op. 78 (No. 24, F-Sharp)  Sonata Op. 79 (No. 25, G)</td>
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<td>Sonata Op. 81a “Les Adieux” (No. 26, E-flat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1814</td>
<td>Sonata Op. 90 (No. 27, e)</td>
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<td>1816</td>
<td>Sonata, Op. 101 (No. 28, A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1817-18</td>
<td>Sonata, Op. 106 (No. 29, B-flat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1820</td>
<td>Sonata Op. 109 (No. 30, E)</td>
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<td>1821</td>
<td>Sonata Op. 110 (No. 31, A-flat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1821-22</td>
<td>Sonata Op. 111 (No. 32, c)</td>
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### Chronology of the Beethoven String Quartets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Quartets/Opus/Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>6 Quartets, Op. 18, Nos. 1-6 (F,G,D,c, A, B-flat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1806</td>
<td>3 Quartets, (&quot;Rasumovsky Quartets&quot;) Op. 59, Nos. 1-3 (F, e, C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1809</td>
<td>Quartet, Op. 74 (E-flat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1810-11</td>
<td>Quartet, Op. 95 (f)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1825 | Quartet, Op. 127 (E-flat)  
Quartet, Op. 132 (a)  
Quartet, Op. 130 (B-flat; finished a few months after Op. 132, with the “Grosse Fuga” serving as original finale, later replaced with new finale, months later. “Grosse Fuga” subsequently released on its own as Op. 133) |
| 1825-26 | Quartet, Op. 131 (c-sharp) |
| 1826 | Quartet, Op. 135 (F) |

### Chronology of the Schubert String Quartets

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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| 1812 | Quartet in Mixed Keys, D. 18  
Quartet (C), D. 32  
Quartet (B-flat), D. 36 |
| 1813 | Quartet (C), D. 46  
Quartet (B-flat), D. 68  
Quartet (D), D. 74 |
| 1814 | Quartet (D), D. 94  
Quartet (B-flat), D. 112 |
| 1815 | Quartet (g), D. 173 |
| 1817 | Quartet (E-flat), D. 87  
Quartet (E), D. 353 |
| 1820 | “Quartett-Satz” (c), D. 703 |
| 1824 | Quartet (a), D. 804 |
| 1826 | Quartet, “Death and the Maiden” (d), D. 810  
Quartet, (G), D. 887 |