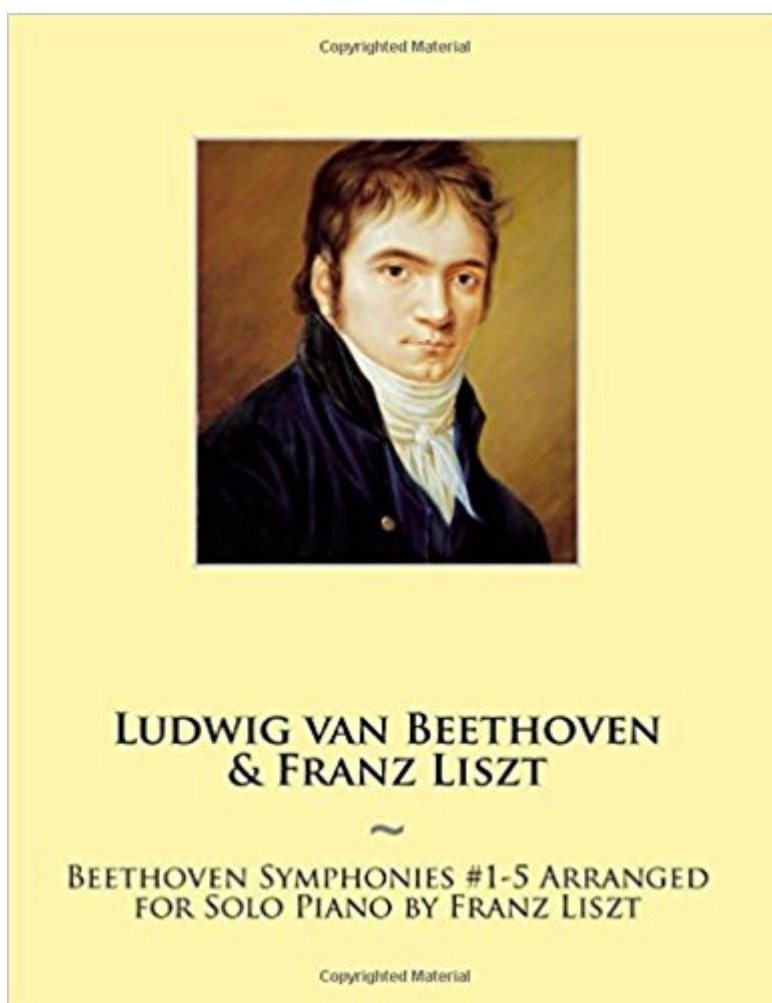


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Beethoven Symphonies #1-5 Arranged For Solo Piano By Franz Liszt (Samwise Music For Piano) (Volume 11)



Synopsis

Beethoven's Symphonies Numbers One Through Five, arranged for solo piano by Franz Liszt. "The name of Beethoven is sacred in art. His symphonies are at present universally acknowledged to be master-pieces; whoever seriously wishes to extend his knowledge or to produce new works can never devote too much reflection and study upon them. For this reason every way or manner of making them accessible and popular has a certain merit, nor are the rather numerous arrangements published so far without relative merit, though, for the most part, they seem to be of but little intrinsic value for deeper research. The poorest lithograph, the most faulty translation always gives an idea, indefinite though it be, of the genius of Michel Angelo, of Shakespeare, in the most incomplete piano-arrangement we recognize here and there the perhaps half effaced traces of the master's inspiration. By the development in technique and mechanism which the piano has gained of late, it is possible now to attain more and better results than have been attained so far. With the immense development of its harmonic power the piano seeks to appropriate more and more all orchestral compositions. In the compass of its seven octaves it can, with but a few exceptions, reproduce all traits, all combinations, all figuration's of the most learned, of the deepest tone-creations, and leaves to the orchestra no other advantages, than those of the variety of tone-colors and massive effects -- immense advantages, to be sure. Such has been my aim in the work I have undertaken and now lay before the musical world. I confess that I should have to consider it a rather useless employment of my time, if I had but added one more to the numerous hitherto published piano-arrangements, following in their rut; but I consider my time well employed if I have succeeded in transferring to the piano not only the grand outlines of Beethoven's compositions but also all those numerous fine details, and smaller traits that so powerfully contribute to the completion of the ensemble. My aim has been attained if I stand on the level with the intelligent engraver, the conscientious translator, who comprehend the spirit of a work and thus contribute to the knowledge of the great masters and to the formation of the sense for the beautiful. Rome, 1865. F. Liszt." (English translation by C. E. R. Mueller.)

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Customer Reviews

Composer, conductor, and teacher Franz Liszt (1811–1886) was renowned throughout Europe for his skills as a concert pianist. The quintessential romantic, he created an extensive and diverse oeuvre that ranges from influential experiments in musical form to more conventional pieces as well as transcriptions of works by other composers. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

I normally get Henle or other urtexts for my piano scores, but I didn't want to spend so much on something that I'd pretty much only play for fun, so I got this score. For the price it can't be beat, but the typeface isn't nearly as clean and easy to read as Henle scores. Still, you get what you pay for, so I'm not giving this any less than 5 stars. This score also contains some very great commentary by Alan Walker, probably the foremost Liszt scholar of our time. I can't comment on authenticity or accuracy, but since these works are transcriptions, I don't think people care much about authoritative editions since they aren't *really* in the standard repertoire (again since they are transcriptions). That being said, these are easily the greatest transcriptions of any piece I've ever seen, and really highlight Liszt's profound understanding of the piano. It should be noted, however, that these symphonies (at least the 3rd and the 5th, which were the ones I've tried so far) are outrageously difficult to play. I think you pretty much need conservatory level technique, as well as very large hands, in order to play them. For reference, I can play Beethoven's op. 53 and 57, Chopin's 25/11, 10/4, 3rd scherzo, 1st Ballade etc but I get wrecked whenever I try to play Beethoven-Liszt. Oh well, I'll get there someday.

As with the transcriptions of Symphonies 6-9, I have only glowing remarks to make about Liszt's musicianship in creating these piano versions. The inner voices are retained to a remarkable

degree, providing a profound aural experience--as though the player is inside the orchestra. Though challenging to the amateur pianist, they are certainly worth the effort.

Very helpful in teaching musical analysis - - as beginning students can more easily see the "bones" of the music than by looking at a full score. Also it's instructive to observe how Liszt attempts to conjure certain orchestral effects using the piano.

Beautiful book and nice collection. However, it does not have a lay flat binding.

Great transcriptions of Beethoven's Symphonies, which are republications of the original two-volume set published by Breitkopf & Hartel, Leipzig, 1865. As expected from Liszt, the transcriptions are arranged in the fullest manner possible in representing the orchestral score for the piano; staying respectful to Beethoven's scores, yet embellishing & adding more pianistic figurations that are necessary to create effective and creditable piano music in its own right. The score often incorporates ossia staves to show alternative ways of playing certain parts where available and often notates in the score what instruments the piano parts are representing. I was a bit hesitant in purchasing this publication at first, because I had bought Dover music publications in the past and pages have very quickly come apart due to flimsy binding quality. However this publication seems to be of much better "Lay Flat Sewn-Binding" quality and seems quite securely bound (although I haven't used the book for very long as of yet). Also the photos on the inside of this book are of bad quality and are completely inaccurate to the scores appearance. The printing is of standard quality, clear and legible; however it could be better and possibly due to the fact it is a facsimile of the original publication; there is some very minor fading / smudging of the ink in parts and the printing in general could be bolder; but this does not affect the legibility of the music in anyway. Similarly the paper used is of standard quality and if better quality paper had been used it would have probably helped enhance the printing quality. Overall, considering the price and that these are the only publications I have found available online; I believe they are well worth purchasing if you wish to play the best transcriptions available for Beethoven's Symphonies. I will be buying the second volume.

This is a seriously amazing arrangement of some of the best music Beethoven ever wrote! While I am not the best pianist, some of the slow movements are within my grasp. I find the best part to be that it can also be used as a study score, as it is riddled with notes on the original orchestration.

I bought this book as a result of listening to the performance of it on CD. I have always enjoyed listening to Beethoven, and his symphonies have retained a place on my shelves for years. However, being a pianist, I never had a chance to actually play them. The way Liszt transcribed Beethoven's works onto piano is astounding, as he writes in a very natural way. There are, of course, some details of certain harmonies left out, but the overall impression remains remarkably similar. I look forward to being able to purchase the next book of the series when it is released.

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