

PIANIST BORIS GILTBURG EMBARKS ON BEETHOVEN 32, A GROUND-BREAKING BEETHOVEN SONATAS JOURNEY TO MARK 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPOSER'S BIRTH

- **Giltburg will learn all 32 Beethoven Piano Sonatas in chronological order, 23 of which he has never played before**
- **The performances will be filmed and shared as audio-visual albums on Apple Music and YouTube at regular intervals throughout 2020, taking his audience on a journey of discovery through the Sonatas cycle**
- **The project launches on 17th January 2020 with Sonata Op. 2/1**

To mark the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth in 2020, pianist Boris Giltburg has created **Beethoven 32**, a ground-breaking project which will see him learn all **32 Beethoven Piano Sonatas**, the majority of which are not currently in his repertoire. Working with brand new audio-visual label **Fly On The Wall**, he will **film his performances and share them as live, uncut visual albums** at regular intervals throughout the year with a global audience via **Apple Music and YouTube**.

Of the project, Giltburg comments: **"This year I will be intensely living through Beethoven's 32 sonatas and am excited about the huge challenge as much as the ensuing journey of discovery. What started as a crazy idea is fast becoming an all-consuming obsession. With this intensity of feeling comes an overwhelming desire to share, both the process and the results – although I know that these results can hardly be final, as years of continued exploration await. I hope to capture and share those fleeting changes of emotion, of falling in love with the music, of discovering a grand architectural plan to a movement or a tiny detail in one bar; of grappling for days with a section that is proving elusive and then, sometimes, the happiness of finally finding it, whatever 'it' is."**

To bring the project together, Giltburg has launched a dedicated website www.Beethoven32.com, where he will post additional supporting written material and video content to help his audience connect with the sheer scale of the undertaking.

Beethoven wrote the sonatas over a period of almost 30 years, with the first three composed in 1795 and the final instalment, *Opus 111: Piano Sonata No. 32 in C minor* written in 1822. By choosing to learn and film them in chronological order, Giltburg hopes to follow the composer on his original path of development. Giltburg explains: "I will attempt to view each sonata - or most of them, at least - as the highest point of what Beethoven could achieve at that time, which makes every sonata interesting in itself, not only for its position in the cycle."

The depth and complexity of this sonatas cycle mean that musicians could easily dedicate a lifetime of work and thought to learning and finessing their interpretations. In this instance, Giltburg has chosen a different approach because he is drawn to the challenge of capturing the

essence of the pieces in a very short timeframe to mark the anniversary year. He hopes that by sharing not only the finished filmed performances, but also a behind-the-scenes look at the daily challenges and obstacles faced by a concert pianist in learning the sonatas, his audience will gain a deeper insight into the process and ultimately, a greater appreciation for the masterpieces.

Alongside this landmark project, Giltburg will complete his **recording cycle of the Beethoven Piano Concertos** with the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra** under **Vasily Petrenko** for the **Naxos** label in the same year. The **first volume of the cycle was released on 11th October 2019 featuring Piano Concertos Nos. 1 & 2**, with the second set for release in May 2020 and the third in October 2020. In February 2020, **Giltburg will perform all five of the Beethoven Piano Concertos in three consecutive days in Brussels** with the **Brussels Philharmonic** directed by **Thierry Fischer** as part of the **Flagey Piano Festival**. On 23rd April 2020 Giltburg will perform **Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4** with the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra** and **Vasily Petrenko** at **Liverpool Philharmonic Hall**.

Notes to Editors:

- Brand new website www.Beethoven32.com forms the hub of the project, with each filmed sonata released at regular intervals throughout the year on Boris Giltburg's **YouTube** channel: www.youtube.com/BorisGiltburgPiano and via the **Apple Music** streaming service.
- The project launches with the release of the first video, Op. 2/1 on **17th January 2020**.
- **Fly On The Wall** is a brand new label distributed globally by Naxos, focussing exclusively on live uncut visual albums <http://fotw.london>
- On 27th February 2020 Giltburg will perform a selection of **Beethoven Sonatas** at **St John's Smith Square, London**.
- As part of his Beethoven immersion year, **Giltburg will perform all five Beethoven Piano Concertos** over three consecutive days from 13th-15th February 2020 in Brussels as part of the **Flagey Piano Festival** with the **Brussels Philharmonic** under **Thierry Fischer**.
- Alongside the Beethoven32 project, in 2020 Giltburg will finish recording his **Beethoven Piano Concertos cycle** with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Chief Conductor Vasily Petrenko, for the **Naxos** label. Volume 1 was released on 11th October 2019, with Vol. 2 due for release in May 2020 and Vol. 3 in October 2020.
- A full biography of Boris Giltburg can be found here: www.borisgiltburg.com/about/
- With thanks to **Fazioli Pianos** whose support has made the filming element possible. Giltburg will film these performances exclusively on their instruments, in two locations – their concert hall in Sacile, Italy and their London showroom, Jacques Samuel Pianos.

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