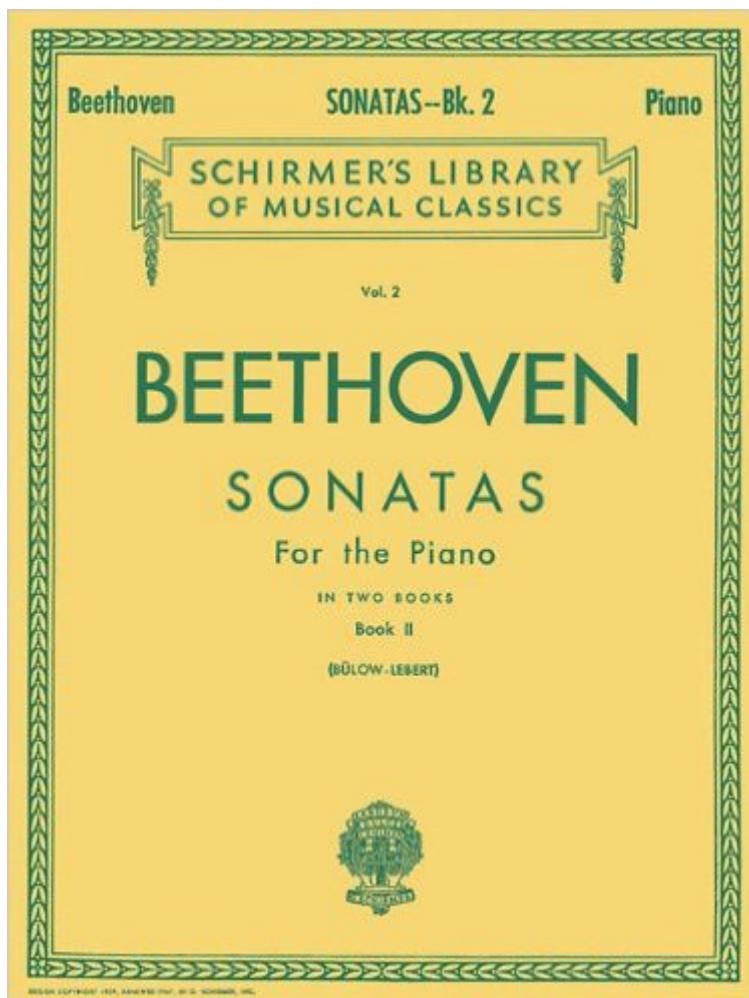


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Sonatas - Book 2: Piano Solo (Schirmer's Library Of Musical Classics, Vol. 2)



Synopsis

(Piano Collection). Contents: Sonata, Op. 49, No. 1 * Sonata, Op. 53 * Sonata, Op. 57 * Sonata, Op. 31, No. 3 * Sonata, Op. 49, No. 2 * Sonata, Op. 79 * Sonata in A Flat, Op. 110 * Sonata in C Minor, Op. 111 * Sonata in A, Op. 101 * Sonata in B flat, Op. 106 (Hammerklavier) * Sonata in E flat, Op. 81a * Sonata in E minor, Op. 90 * Sonata in E, Op. 109 * Sonata in F, Op. 54 * Sonata in F#, Op. 78.

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Customer Reviews

Beethoven's sonatas are wonderful - this goes without saying. But Schirmer editions, particularly of Beethoven and Mozart, epitomize poor scholarship and sloppy editing. As one of my college piano teachers yelled angrily at me, "Never buy Schirmer editions. They are a waste of your money." Hans von Bulow (the editor of the present volume) is notorious for having constantly interfered with the original musical texts, "improving" upon them in various ways: e.g. inserting markings for dynamics, articulation, etc. where they don't belong. It's incredible to me that this edition is still in use. For a really authoritative edition of the Beethoven sonatas, I would recommend an Urtext edition by Henle or Vienna. If price is an issue, get the Dover edition of the Beethoven sonatas instead: Ludwig Van Beethoven Complete Piano Sonatas Volume 1 (Nos. 1-15)- it's an older edition, but authoritative, having been scrupulously edited by Heinrich Schenker himself.

After purchasing the Dover publication a few years ago (of Beethoven's Sonatas), I was disappointed with the printing and binding quality, as well as the poor editing by Heinrich Schenker. I was very pleased however when I received these Schirmer editions, edited by Dr. Hans von Bulow and Dr. Sigmund Lebert. The paper used and printing is of much better quality, and similarly the editing (although not everything may be accurate for present day, modern performance) is much more respectful to the works and helpful for the pianist; with more accurate articulation, pedal markings, fingering, ossia staffs and appendix information given at the bottom of many pages to give the pianist a fuller understanding in learning and playing the pieces. The binding seems of better quality and held relatively strong to the spine, but I have not had the book for very long, so (like with many large music books) that may be my only concern with this publication in the future. Overall, I would highly recommend these Schirmer publications over many others (for around the same price), for any pianist wishing to learn Beethoven's Piano Sonatas to performing standard.

I agree with the other reviewer who said "Stay away!" There are SO many awful markings in these scores that Beethoven did not write,. And then they'll leave out markings Beethoven did put in. Learning from this edition will leave you with a warped idea of Beethoven's intent. You're getting, at best, a transcription of one man's personal interpretation of the sonata; at worst, a jumbled mess. Does anyone think Beethoven wasn't capable of writing what he meant?

Love Beethoven. Recently started to play piano again after 30 years away from this wonderful instrument. Thanks.

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