





Beethoven's Symphonies Arranged for the Chamber

Early nineteenth-century composers, publishers, and writers evolved influential ideals of Beethoven's symphonies as untouchable masterpieces. Meanwhile, many and various arrangements of symphonies, principally for amateur performers, supported diverse and 'hands-on' cultivation of the same works. Now mostly forgotten, these arrangements served a vital function in nineteenth-century musical life, extending works' meanings and reach, especially to women in the home. This book places domestic music-making back into the history of the classical symphony. It investigates a largely untapped wealth of early nineteenth-century arrangements of symphonies by Beethoven, for piano, string quartet, mixed quintet, and other ensembles. The study focuses on three key agents in the nineteenth-century culture of musical arrangement: arrangers, publishers, and performers. It investigates significant functions of those musical arrangements in the era: sociability, reception, and canon formation. And it explores how conceptions of Beethoven's symphonies, and their arrangement, developed across the era with the changing conception of musical works.

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Sociability, Reception, and Canon Formation

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