

Piano Sonata No. 18 in E flat, Op. 31, No. 3

- I. Allegro
- II. Scherzo
- III. Menuetto
- IV. Presto con fuoco

Beethoven spent the summer of 1802 in Heiligenstadt, a small village outside Vienna, where he completed his second symphony and composed the three violin sonatas of Op. 30, the Romance in G for violin and orchestra, a set of variations for the piano, on his 'Eroica' theme, and the seven Bagatelles for piano, Op. 33. As well as this came three more piano sonatas – Op. 31. Beethoven had hoped that some improvement in his hearing might take place outside Vienna, but these hopes were dashed, and he began to resign himself to eventually losing his hearing altogether. This resulted in his writing an extraordinary document now known as the Heiligenstadt Testament, in which he wrote of his despair, but also of his acceptance of the situation. This was perhaps the lowest point in his life.

The third of the Op. 31 sonatas is in E flat, and we are back in the world of comedy. There's a lot of operatic jollity in the first movement, and the second is a Scherzo, in 2/4, jogging happily along, but with the occasional whispered question. A minuet follows, with more humour in the Trio, and the last movement, another moto perpetuo, gallops impetuously towards the final, decisive cadences. Beethoven's "new way" shows itself at the beginning as it is not until the eighth bar that we hear a root position tonic chord, and instead of a slow movement we have both a Scherzo and a Minuet.

降 E 大調第十八鋼琴奏鳴曲，作品 31，第三首

- I. 快板
- II. 諧謔曲
- III. 小步舞曲
- IV. 富生氣的急板

貝多芬在維也納郊外的小鄉村海利根施塔特渡過 1802 年夏天，在這裡完成第二交響曲、作品 30 的三首小提琴奏鳴曲、小提琴及樂隊的 G 大調浪漫曲、採用「英雄」主題的一套鋼琴變奏曲、作品 33 的七首鋼琴短曲及作品 31 的三首鋼琴奏鳴曲。貝多芬曾經希望維也納郊外的環境對他的聽覺有幫助，可惜希望全部落空，他已漸漸接受耳聾的事實了。海利根施塔特遺囑記載了他的失望，不過同時亦勇於接受殘酷的現實。這可能是他生命中最低潮的時刻。

降 E 大調的作品 31 第三首回到喜劇的世界。第一樂章充滿著歌劇風格的喜悅氣氛。第二樂章是 2/4 拍子的諧謔曲，快樂及穩定地前進，間中帶有輕輕的疑慮感。小步舞曲隨著出現，而中段更添幽默感。終樂章又是另一首常動曲，衝動地奔馳到結尾決定性的終止式。貝多芬的「新方向」在作品開始時便露出端倪，就是到第 8 小節才採用原位的主和弦，還有採用諧謔曲及小步舞曲來代替慢樂章。

Performer : Crystal Lam

Crystal Lam completed the Bachelor of Music degree with First Class honours at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA), the Master of Music degree at the Texas Christian University and her Doctoral of Music Arts degree (Honours) at the University of Kansas (KU). She has been featured as a soloist performing with the KU Symphony Orchestra and the HKAPA Academy Orchestra. She has enjoyed many achievements in music competitions, including the First Prize and National Third Prize at the Music Teacher National Association Piano Young Artist Competition. She is also actively engaged in chamber music. She has received top prizes in chamber music competitions in the United States, including the Music Teachers National Association Chamber Ensemble National Championship. The Trio made the Carnegie Hall debut in New York. She currently works as a faculty at HKAPA.

演奏者：林啟妍

林啟妍以一級榮譽取得香港演藝學院學士學位。其後獲得美國德克薩斯基督教大學及堪薩斯大學音樂碩士學位及音樂藝術博士榮譽學位。她曾於多個國際及本地音樂比賽中獲獎，包括美國全國音樂教師協會青年藝術家鋼琴比賽堪薩斯州冠軍、中西部地區冠軍及全國季軍。她亦熱愛室樂，曾在美國獲得多個室樂獎項，包括美國全國音樂教師協會青年藝術家室樂比賽全美總冠軍，又在美國著名的卡內基音樂廳表演室樂三重奏，現任教於香港演藝學院。

