

Praise for Stephen Porter's live performances of Beethoven:

“That may be the most exciting and appropriate version of the Appassionata”

SLATE MAGAZINE

“The climax of that final sonata [Beethoven Op. 111] reached the level of sublimity for me, and I was not alone.”

BOSTON MUSICAL INTELLIGENCER

“It was Stephen Porter who made his performances very good indeed, especially of the extraordinary final piano sonata [Beethoven Op. 111]. Porter's effortless execution of the score, including beautifully conceived pedal work and poetic understanding of the dynamic and color possibilities that vary from one register to another made this a transcendent experience. Late Beethoven at its best is indescribable, as was this performance. Everything else on the program was worth hearing; this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

NEW YORK ARTS

“Hearing the Appassionata recorded live in concert by Stephen Porter on an 1827 Graf instrument from the Frederick Historic Piano Collection is unforgettable — in how the music utilizes the distinctive registers of the Viennese pianos of that time (lost on modern pianos), and in how the ending seems almost like an assault on the instrument, which struggles to contain the music.”

BEETHOVEN: ANGUISH AND TRIUMPH, by Jan Swafford