

Pianist Stephen Porter came from the US like a Manna from the very heavens - the concert offered Beethoven's last 3 Piano sonatas Nos.30 Opus 109, No.31 Opus 110 and No.32 Opus 111, in succession one after the other in a single concert, yes, you heard it right! This is unprecedented in concerts anywhere in the world. Sound in technique, plunging the very depths in veering between Beethoven's despair and spiritual renewal, all this with nary a sweat. Decades ago back in 1988 or so, when I first heard these final sonatas that bid adieu to the Classical style that Beethoven inherited, breaking free in looking ahead and thus firmly laying the roots of the Romantic School, I wondered if I will ever hear them performed live in a concert. Lo and behold, life offered Stephen decades later last evening at the Bangalore International Centre 🙏

