

18 February 2008

AN AUDIENCE OF OVER 22,000 WITNESS BARENBOIM'S BEETHOVEN SONATA CYCLE AT THE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

**“recognised as one of the musical events of the year, if not the decade”
EVENING STANDARD**

Yesterday afternoon (17 February) saw the final Beethoven piano sonata concert by Daniel Barenboim in the Royal Festival Hall at London's Southbank Centre. Since Monday 28 January, pianist Daniel Barenboim has performed all of the 32 piano sonatas by Beethoven. This series of concerts has created a huge amount of interest and has been one of the most popular and critically-acclaimed events at Southbank Centre in recent years. All eight concerts were attended by capacity audiences with over 22,000 tickets sold and more than 600 people witnessing the entire cycle. Such was the demand for tickets that Southbank Centre erected a large screen on The Clore Ballroom to enable those unable to buy tickets, to see the concert for free as a live-relay from the auditorium. Each concert brought ever-increasing queues of those awaiting returns, with queues for the final concert forming before the Hall had even opened.

After standing ovations at every concert, Barenboim finally returned to the platform at the end of yesterday's recital, tucked away the stool and closed the lid of his piano, which he had brought with him for this amazing musical journey. A clear signal that this journey was now over.

This major event of 2008 was presented by Southbank Centre in association with Askonas Holt.

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