STEPHEN HOUGH

For me to write about Robert Mann is virtually impossible. Not, of course, because there's nothing to say, but because to make an adequate statement about his achievements and, in particular, about his place in my own musical life, would require the sort of space which is not available or appropriate in this context. But let me throw some random thoughts and impressions of Bobby on to the table:

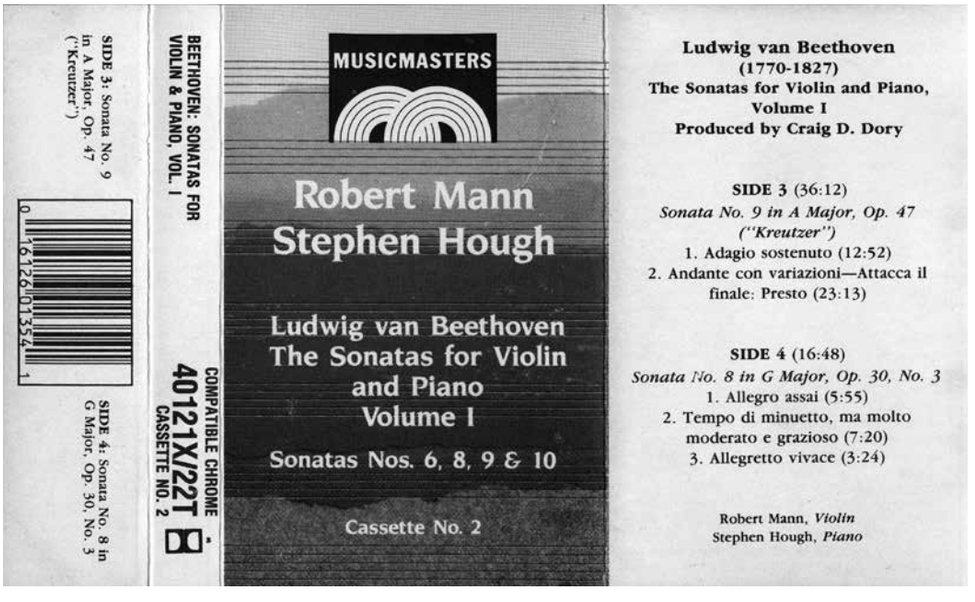
– deeply human—someone whose life, musical and personal, is solid to the core

– Authentic—hallmarks clear to see on every surface

– passionately musical—someone whose every breath is musical, someone who is energized by music and then able to transfer that power to audiences and students with generosity and force

– instinctive and intellectual—someone whose first thoughts and then deeper thoughts are unified and balanced, unafraid to take wing on a momentary impulse, but then fascinated by the 'nest-building' which is essential to enter into the deep world of musical masterpieces

In short, his influence on me personally and my gratitude for that is too big to quantify. His place in over half a century of American musical life is that of a giant.



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