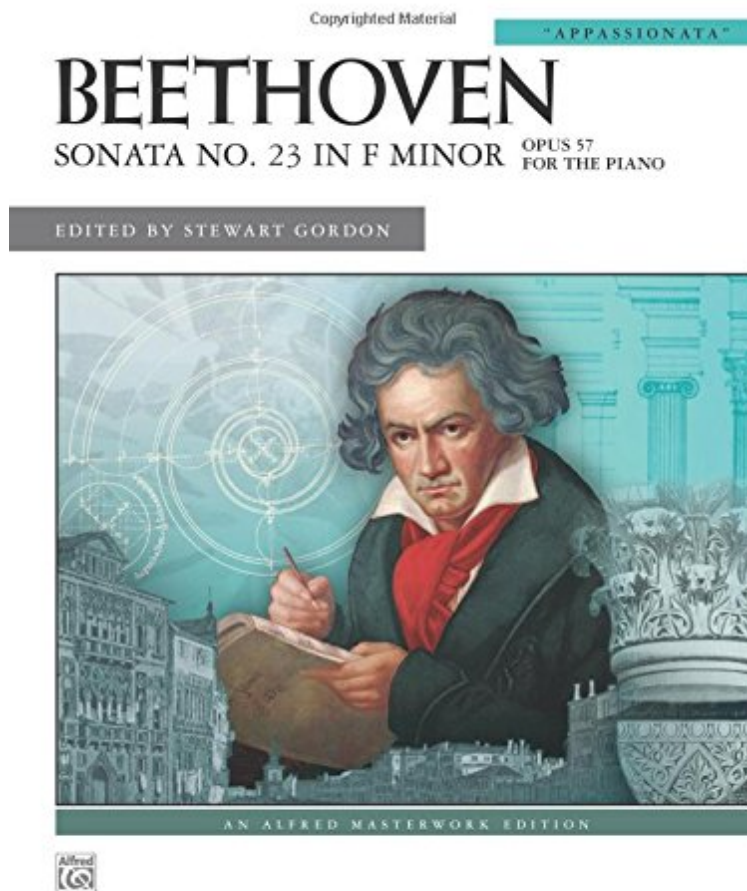


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Sonata No. 23 in F Minor, Op. 57 is considered by many, including Beethoven, to be one of his greatest sonatas. The nickname "appassionata" probably came from a four-hand version entitled Sonata appassionata, published in Hamburg

in 1838. The famous opening thematic statement played two octaves apart and repeated immediately a half step higher sets a mood of tension and conflict in this majestic sonata. Dr. Stewart Gordon's editions of Beethoven's most popular piano sonatas provide the key to a stylistic performance. Thorough research of the earliest available sources has enabled Dr. Gordon to produce the most accurate reflection of the composer's intent. Each sonata contains helpful fingering suggestions and performance recommendations.