

*El piano digital con sonido
y pulsación real*

Clavinova

 **YAMAHA**

MUSICASA

Plaça del Fortí, 1 (antiga Pl. Hornabeque). 07011 Palma de Mallorca. Tel. 971 281 559.

programme notes

**LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
(1770 - 1827)**

Overture, König Stephan

In 1811 Beethoven was commissioned to write music for the prologue and epilogue of a dramatic work being produced for the opening of a new theatre in the city of Pest (not then united with Buda). The two pieces were tonight's overture, and the short work later known as The Ruins of Athens.

King Stephen was Hungary's national hero and first king, crowned in the year 1000. He converted the Hungarian people to Christianity, for which he was canonised in 1083, soon after his death.

Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D major, Opus 61.

1806 was a busy year for Beethoven. He wrote the Fourth Symphony and sketched the Fifth, composed the Rasoumovsky Quartets, and also did substantial work on the Fourth Piano Concerto and the opera Fidelio. Then, towards the end of the year, there came the opportunity of presenting a violin concerto at a Vienna concert on 23 December. In great haste Beethoven wrote tonight's masterpiece, completing it only two days before the concert took place.

From the start Beethoven had in mind the 26 year old Franz Clement to perform the concerto. Clement was an established concert performer and in addition held the position of first violinist and conductor of the famous Theater an der Wien orchestra. One contemporary account of Clement's playing describes it as "bold, robust and powerful" while another praises its "gracefulness and tenderness". Clement was also something of a showman; it throws an interesting light on concert-giving in the early 19th century to know that, in addition to the premiere of Beethoven's concerto, Clement performed a composition of his own on one string while holding the violin upside down!

The Violin Concerto was not immediately a success; perhaps there had been insufficient time for preparation and rehearsal. When the English publisher Muzio Clementi visited Vienna in 1806 he was deeply impressed by this concerto but asked Beethoven if he would make a piano transcription since he doubted that it would attract attention in its original form. However, in the 1850s the great violinist Joseph Joachim took it up and in subsequent years it established itself as the greatest of all concertos for the violin.