

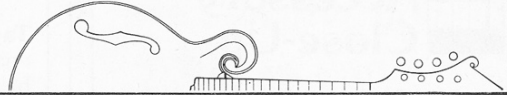


David Grisman

The Mandolin

Beethoven's Sonatina

WORKSHOP



LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN IS a name familiar to all music lovers, but did you know that he played the mandolin? During the ten years from 1790-1800, when he was between 20 and 30 years of age, Beethoven was associated with several fine mandolin players, and one of his best friends, Wenzel Krumpholz, was a mandolin virtuoso.

In 1795, Beethoven wrote two compositions for mandolin with keyboard accompaniment: *Sonatina in C Minor*, with "Adagio" in E \flat major; and *Sonatina in C major*, with "Theme And Variations" in D major, the first part of which is shown in the music below.

This music was originally written for the Lombardian, or Milanese, mandolin. It had six single gut strings that were tuned as follows (low to high): G-D-A-E-B-G. The *Sonatina* has been

recorded by many mandolinists: Maria Scivittaro from Italy on *Mandolin Music* (Nonesuch Records [962 N. La Cienega, Los Angeles, CA 90069], H-71227); Mike Melford on *Mandolin Fantasy* (Flying Fish Records [1304 W. Schubert St., Chicago, IL 60614], FF-023); and Hugo D'Alton from England, who played the original Milanese instrument on *The Classical Mandolin* (Saga Records [326 Kensal Rd., London W10 5BL], Saga 5350), to name just a few. I used this first part of the piece as an introduction to my tune, "Bow Wow" from *David Grisman — Quintet '80* (Warner Brothers, BSK-3469).

For some additional pinky training, play all the open E notes on the A string at the 7th fret. I'll give you part two of the tune in an upcoming article.

Allegro

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a treble clef staff and a guitar-style fretting notation below. The first system starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4) and accents. The second system ends with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The third system includes a key signature change to one sharp (F#) in the second measure. The fourth system ends with a double bar line.

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