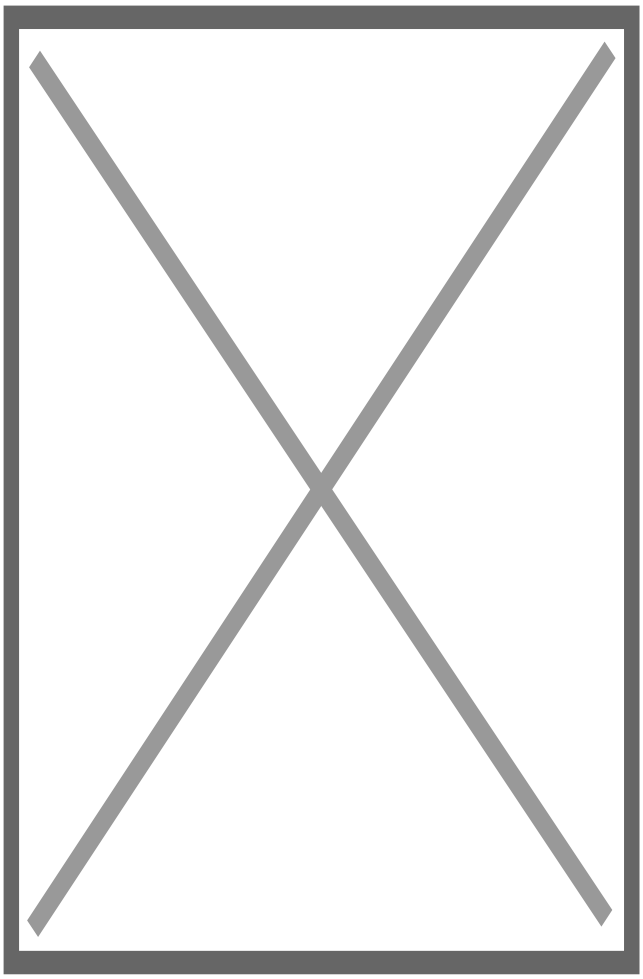
Beethoven for a Later Age, by Edward Dusinberre

Books in the May 25, 2016 issue

In Review



Beethoven for a Later Age

By Edward Dusinberre
University of Chicago Press

This textured and witty book is about Beethoven, but it has larger implications for the life of faith. Edward Dusinberre, violinist in a renowned string quartet, explores the meaning of spiritual interiority, cohesiveness and collaboration in groups, and the commitment to excellence. He illuminates the “Song of Thanksgiving” from Opus 132, which Beethoven composed after a life-threatening illness. Blending technique and passion, Beethoven’s music carried a spirit of adventure and a radical message about faith. The sacred is experienced in liminal spaces where profound silence happens. But behind the silence is activity. Whether worshiping in the pews or performing in a string quartet, “we are circus performers taking on an acrobatic challenge.”