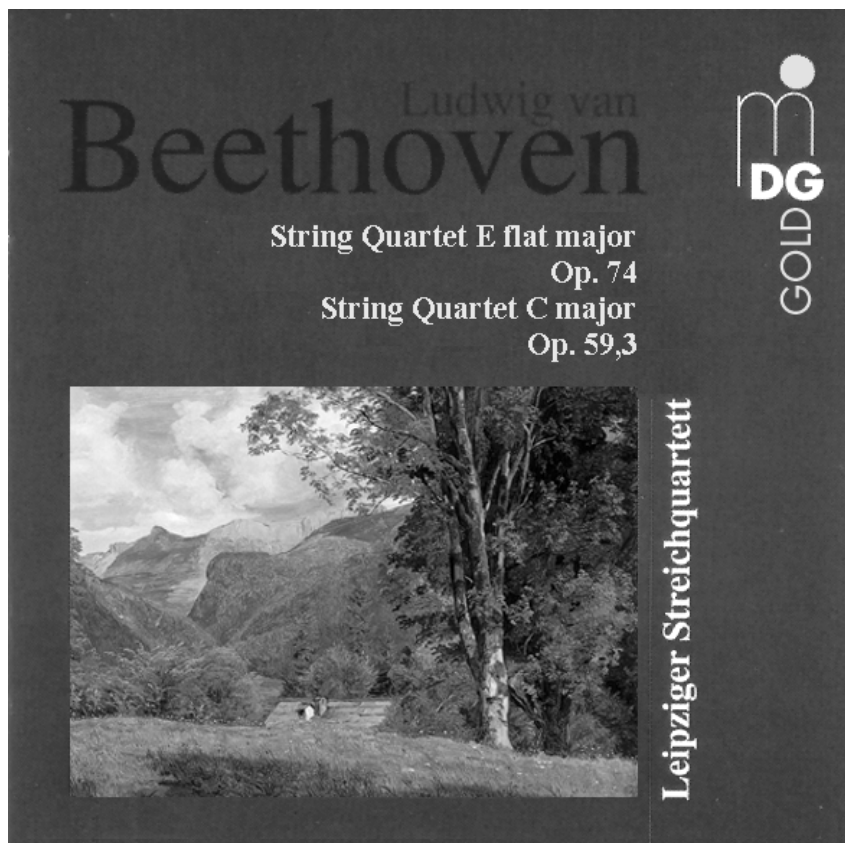


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11/98-(5)

Title:

Ludwig van Beethoven
String Quartets op. 59,3
and op. 74

Musician:

Leipziger Streichquartett

Number of CDs: 1

Order Number:

MDG 307 0852-2

UPC-Code:



Shooting Stars

This recording features two central works of the string quartet literature on which the Leipzig String Quartet, the shooting stars of international chamber music, have now cast their splendid light: Beethoven's Quartets op. 59,3 and op. 74.

Stylistic Divide

Five compositions are included among Beethoven's "middle quartets": the three quartets of op. 59 and the single works opp. 74 and 95. All they really have in common is their time of composition: 1806 to 1810. As the present recording clearly demonstrates, a stylistic divide runs through this group of works: op. 59,3 looks back to the early oeuvre of the genius, and op. 74 looks ahead, to the eccentricity of his late quartets.

Second Fiddle

Razumovsky, the count to whom Beethoven dedicated his op. 59, was a chamber-music fan if there ever was one. Over many years he maintained his own quartet ensemble for his personal edification and occasionally played the role of its second violinist: the Schuppanzigh Quartet. This ensemble's concert tours made Beethoven's quartets world-famous - without, however, the services of a certain noble fiddler.

Record Harvest

The Leipzig String Quartet has reaped a "record harvest" of enthusiastic reviews for its extensive repertoire recorded exclusively for MDG. The ensemble has earned lavish praise for its previous Beethoven releases:

"Höchst empfehlenswert" (*Stereoplay*)

"Parfaitement" (*Diapason*)

"Most attractive" (*Gramophone*)

"Bien fait" (*Répertoire*)

"Most sophisticated" (BBC)

"Eine so utopisch wie geglückte Einspielung" (*FonoForum*)

"Excellent job" (*Fanfare*)

Beethoven: String Quartets opp. 131 and 135
MDG 307 0820-2

Beethoven: String Quartets opp. 59,1 and 14,1
MDG 307 0707-2