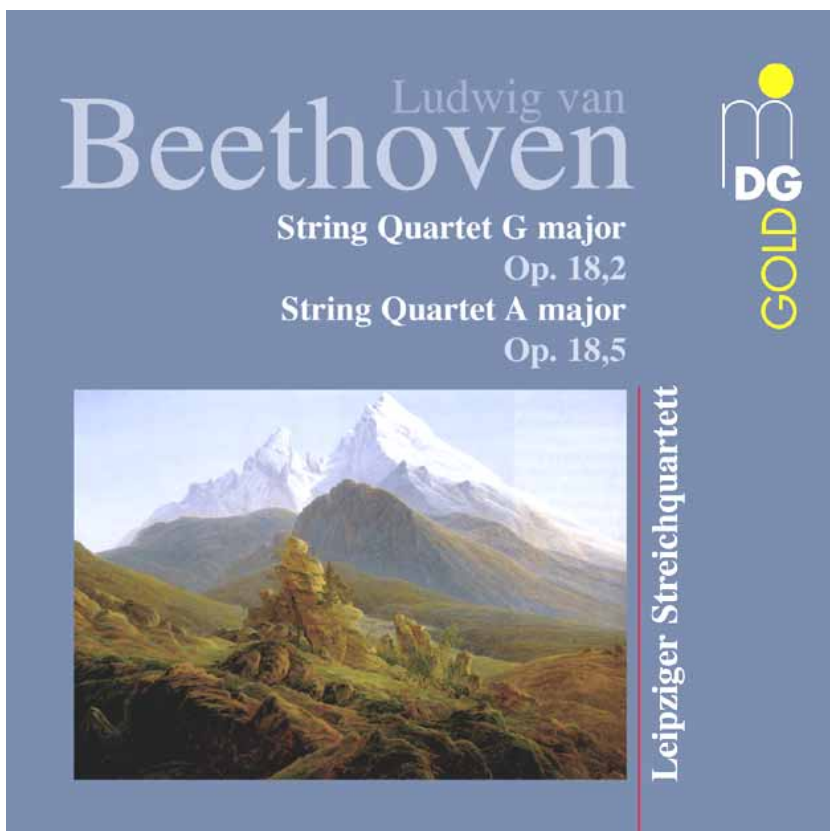


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05/02- (5)

Title:
Ludwig van Beethoven
Quartets op. 18,2 and 18,5

Musicians:
Leipziger Streichquartett

Number of CDs: 1

Order Number:
MDG 307 0855-2

UPC-Code:



Recipes for Success

With his Quartets op. 18/2 and op. 18/5 the genius Ludwig van Beethoven continued the successes that he had begun to celebrate in the genre of the string quartet only at the relatively ripe old age of twenty-nine. When the members of the Leipzig String Quartet were pushing thirty, they were already acclaimed interpreters in the same genre. Their recipe for success rests on their extraordinary careful preparation of their international concert performances.

Public Spotlight

Beethoven also knew why he had to do his homework when it came to the string quartet. Vienna was a hard-to-please, highly competitive place where a composer could make a favorable impression only with first-class achievements. So at first, master of keyboard interpretation and improvisation that he was, he dared to exhibit only his piano music in the full glaring public spotlight.

Take a Bow

Etymological folk tradition in the music world often formulates unusual nicknames for its favorite works. Beethoven's Quartet op. 18/2 came to be known as the "Compliment Quartet" not because the public suddenly took the eccentric Beethoven for a polite gentleman but because the musical language of the quartet seems to consist of countless little bows.

Curtain Calls

The Leipzig String Quartet has met with unanimous international enthusiasm for its repertoire recorded exclusively on MDG. A short sampling from the countless curtain calls:

"Most highly recommendable" (*Stereoplay*)-"Perfectly" (*Diapason*) - "Most attractive" (*Gramophone*)
"Well done" (*Répertoire*) - "Most sophisticated" (*BBC*)
"Utopian as well as successful" (*FonoForum*)
"Excellent job" (*Fanfare*)

Ludwig van Beethoven: String Quartets
op. 59,1 and 14 MDG 307 0707-2
op. 59,3 and 74 MDG 307 0852-2
op. 131 and 135 MDG 307 0820-2
op. 18,1 and 4 MDG 307 0853-2
op. 127 and 132 MDG 307 0854-2

W. A. Mozart:

String Quartets KV 387 and 421 MDG 307 1035-2
String Quartets KV 458 and 465 MDG 307 1107-2

F. Schubert: Complete String Quartets
Vol. 1-9: MDG 307 0601-2 to 307 0609-2

