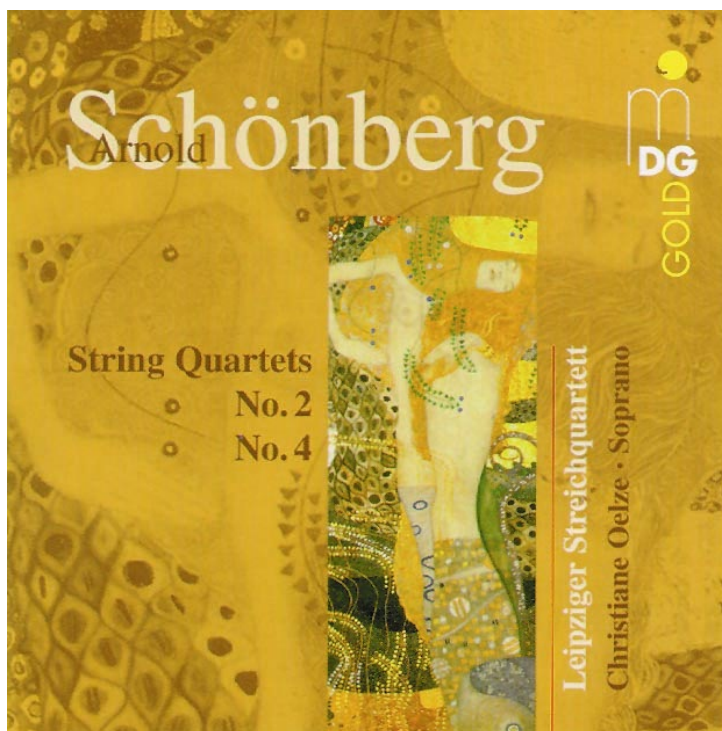


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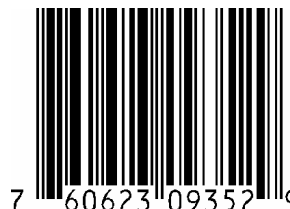
**Title:**  
Arnold Schönberg  
String Quartets  
No. 2 and 4

**Musicians:**  
Leipziger Streichquartett

**Number of CDs: 1**

**Order Number:**  
MDG 307 0935-2

**UPC-Code:**



### **Matching Volume**

The matching volume is now available. After the overwhelming success of our CD with Arnold Schönberg's String Quartets Nos. 1 and 3, the Leipzig String Quartet and Christiane Oelze round things off with his String Quartets Nos. 2 and 4.

### **Quartet Revolution**

Schönberg's String Quartet No. 2 marked not only a new development in the chamber oeuvre of a noteworthy composer but also a revolution in Western music. He broke up the sacrosanct string instrumentation with the addition of a soprano voice and over the course of the piece crossed over the boundary from tonality to atonality.

### **Predestined Scandal**

The quartet's second movement includes a wistful quotation of the children's song "O du lieber Augustin, alles ist hin." It is at precisely this moment in this incomparable quartet that the center of the key, for centuries a sort of compositional polestar, is covered by a cloud and tonal orientation becomes difficult; and in the last movement the public finds itself in the midst of a new age. In sum, this quartet was predestined to produce the greatest scandal in Viennese concert history.

### **Warm Reception**

Schönberg was already living in exile when he began his work on the String Quartet No. 4, a work representing his mature twelve-tone compositional period. The premiere with the renowned Kolisch Quartet almost had to be called off because the musicians did not get the music until the last minute. The concert world (outside Germany) gave the work a warm reception. Kolisch wrote to Schönberg, "Teddie Wiesengrund [the philosopher T. W. Adorno] was beside himself with enthusiasm."

### **Banner Reviews**

"Highly acclaimed and prizewinning performances the world over" (Midem News)

"One of the most sophisticated and imaginative ensembles recording at the moment" (BBC Radio 3)

"A new format... a new dimension." (FonoForum)

### **Arnold Schönberg:**

Quartet (1897) and Quartet No.1  
MDG 307 0919-2

Quartet No.3, Verklärte Nacht op.4  
MDG 307 0773-2