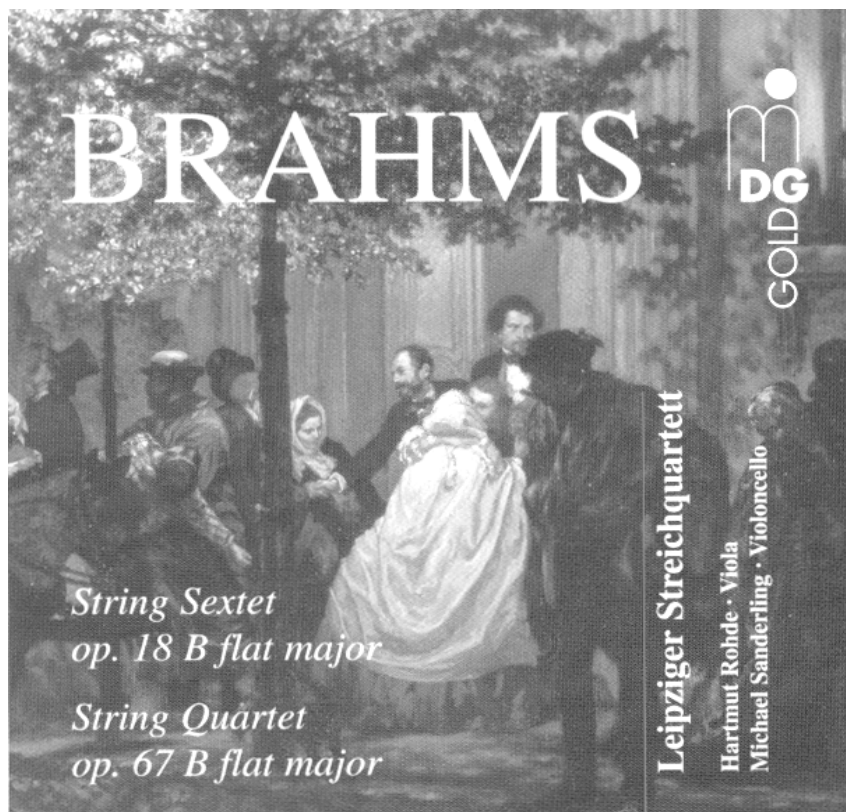


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03/00-(6)

Title:

Johannes Brahms
Quartet B flat major op. 67
Sextet B flat major op. 18

Musicians:

Leipziger Streichquartett

Number of CDs: 1

Order Number:

MDG 307 0969-2

UPC-Code:



The Big Top

Since Brahms' mastery reaches its heights in his quartets and sextets, it is only fitting for top artists like the Leipzig String Quartet to team up with renowned chamber instrumentalists such as the violist Hartmut Rohde and cellist Michael Sanderling to document their interpretation of two of this composer's central works, as heard on this CD.

True Touchstone

While many of his colleagues turned to the symphonic poem, a more attractive and fashionable form precisely because it was a more spectacular one, Brahms always maintained that chamber music was the true touchstone of compositional artistry.

Productive and Destructive

Brahms had a special predilection for the key of B flat major, terming it "good milk" and a "productive udder." His *Quartet op. 67* and *Sextet op. 17*, two fascinating compositions from his most productive creative period and both in B flat major, were preceded by more than twenty string quartets that failed to measure up to the master's strict standards and which he destroyed with his own hand.

Clara's Unclarity

Clara Schumann, who looked to Brahms for brooding depth, could not see the geniality of the second

movement of the B flat major quartet. She regarded this movement and its spirited free-and-easy style as "not important enough for Brahms."

Brahms at the Finest

The Leipzig String Quartet has demonstrated its expertise in Brahms interpretation to the world: "This is the finest Brahms playing one could ever hope to hear" (*Classic CD*).

Johannes Brahms: Clarinet Quintet op. 115

+ String Quartet op. 51, 2

Karl Leister, clarinet; Leipziger Streichquartett
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F. Schubert:

Complete String Quartets

Vol. 1-9 MDG 307 0601-2
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op. 59,3 and 74

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op. 131 and 135

MDG 307 0820-2

W.A. Mozart: Prussian Quartets

KV 575, 589 & 590

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(2 CDs for the price of 1)

EDITOR'S CHOICE
Gramophone

