



02/04-(5)

Title:

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)
Complete String Quartets
Vol. 4
Octet op. 20, String Quartet (1823)

Musicians:

Leipziger Streichquartett
Matthias Wollong, Yamei Yu, violin
Hartmut Rohde, viola
Martin Sanderling, violoncello

Number of CDs: 1

Order Number:

MDG 307 1057-2

UPC-Code:



Stroke of Genius

At the age of sixteen Felix Mendelssohn had more musical experience than many a contemporary composer had at the end of his life. The Leipzig String Quartet now concludes its highly decorated complete recording with the Octet in E flat major — a young man's stroke of genius.

Musical Who's Who

Mendelssohn himself valued the octet in special measure. He not only later had it printed as his Opus 20 but also performed it a number of times himself with musicians whose names read like a who's who of the compositional world: Niels W. Gade, Ferdinand David, Moritz Hauptmann.

World of Spirits

The octet is not merely a double string quartet; it features equal musical partners who not rarely form avant-garde constellations. The boldest movement is the scherzo, an Allegro leggierissimo in 2/4 time, corresponding to the type of the "elf scherzo" that later became so characteristic of Mendelssohn. Fanny Mendelssohn wrote, "The individual tremulando shudders, the tied trills slightly flashing — everything is new, strange, and yet so appealing, so friendly that one feels so near to the world of spirits."

Parental Support

The String Quartet in E flat major was completed still earlier, on March 5, 1823, and performed a little later at

the Sunday Concerts to which Mendelssohn's father invited Berlin's top musicians. What splendid parental support of children's creative energies!

Masterful Documentation

"Mendelssohn's mastery is documented in his quartets — that he has in common with the members of the Leipzig String Quartet," is how *FonoForum* formulated it, and other music experts have followed suit: "First choice (*BBC Music Magazine*); "Everything is lavish, calm, ...and music" (*Diapason*); "Benchmark" (*BBC*); "The best currently to be had and to be experienced" (*Crescendo*).

Felix Mendelssohn: Complete String Quartets

Vol. 1: op. 12 + 13 MDG 307 1055-2
Vol. 2: op. 44, 1 + 2 MDG 307 1168-2
Vol. 3: op. 44, 3 + 80 MDG 307 1056-2

Ludwig van Beethoven: String Quartets

op. 59,3 and 74 MDG 307 0852-2
op. 131 and 135 MDG 307 0820-2
op. 18,1 and 18,4 MDG 307 0853-2
op. 59,1 and 14,1 MDG 307 0707-2

W. A. Mozart:

String Quartets KV 575, 589 & 590
MDG 307 0936-2 (2 CDs)

