



11/02-(6)

Title:

Richard Strauss (1864-1949)
String Quartet, Sextet,
Metamorphosen

Musicians:

Leipziger Streichquartett
Hartmut Rohde, viola
Michael Sanderling, violoncello
Christian Ockert, double bass

Number of CDs: 1

Order Number:

MDG 307 1142-2

UPC-Code:



New Dimensions

Since Richard Strauss loved the full orchestra, this recording of "smaller-scale" chamber music by this late-romantic composer is all the more unique. The Leipzig String Quartet and musicians of like mind present the String Sextet from the opera *Capriccio*, the String Quartet op. 2, and the famous *Metamorphoses* in its early version for string septet — all well worth a close hearing!

Young Master

The String Quartet in A major op. 2, composed by the schoolboy Strauss in 1880 at the age of fifteen or sixteen, numbers among the works of his youth. What do experts find in this music by the composer as a young man? Beautiful melodies fitting the character of the movements, challenging but not too virtuosic instrumental parts, a quartet texture of remarkably good construction, and what in fact is a brilliant command of form!

Time Machine

Six years later Strauss opened *Capriccio*, his last opera, with a string sextet in the classical mold. This is hardly surprising inasmuch as the opera is set in a castle in the vicinity of Paris, where, at the same time, Gluck began his reform of the opera — a genuine "Strauss" from 1775.

Compositional Phases

Strauss composed the *Metamorphoses* five years later, at the end of World War II, and changed its instrumentation a number of times. He initially planned eleven stringed instruments, reduced the instrumental contingent to seven voices in the *particella* (the version heard here), and then finally and definitively expanded it to twenty-three voices in the score. The composer's mourning over the destruction of

his native Munich gave rise to an atmospheric picture of great density and one that is represented particularly well in the transparency of the intermediary phase recorded here.

New Combinations

On this recording the Leipzig String Quartet teams up with three musicians representing the same high interpretive standards. Since Hartmut Rohde (viola), Michael Sanderling (violoncello), and Christian Ockert (double bass) number among Europe's most successful chamber musicians, we have every reason to expect that this recording will continue in the tradition of the Leipzig String Quartet's previous MDG triumphs.

Charles Ives: Complete Works for String Quartet

Leipziger Streichquartett
Yeon-Hee Kwak, english horn
Steffen Schleiermacher, piano MDG 307 1143-2

Weill: Complete String Quartets / **Hindemith:** Minimax

MDG 307 1071-2

F. Schubert: Complete String Quartets

Vol. 1-9 MDG 307 0601-2 to 307 0609-2

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
op. 18, 2 and 5	MDG 307 0855-2
op. 18,3 and 6	MDG 307 0856-2

