



10/02-(4)

Title:

Charles Ives (1874-1954)
String Quartets No. 1+2
Adagio sostenuto for
English horn, String Quartet
and Klavier

Musicians:

Leipziger Streichquartett
Yeon Hee Kwak, english horn
Steffen Schleiermacher, piano

Number of CDs: 1

Order number:

MDG 307 1143-2

UPC-Code:



Complete Music for String Quartet

Leipziger Streichquartett



Highways and Byways

The Leipzig String Quartet by no means travels exclusively along the top-speed repertoire highways. Rather, the ensemble has also enjoyed outstanding success with the quartets of the Second Viennese School, not to mention the first recording of Kurt Weill's two quartets. The avant-garde, in all its radicality, has always served as a source of inspiration for these four exceptional musicians.

Musical Paths

Charles Ives explored a great many different stylistic and technical paths. In his music purely experimental pieces alternate with pieces adopting traditional forms and genres of European origin. Aesthetic purity contrasts with musical polemics against the established concert business.

Tricks and Treats

Halloween for String Quartet and Piano, a piece of a mere seventeen measures, captures the boisterous sound chaos of the crazy American holiday, while the Adagio sostenuto for English Horn, String Quartet, and Piano is a sort of "song without words" depicting a chromatic sound landscape of great depth. The archaic character of the String Quartet No. 1 (1898-1902) is still far from these extremes and thus stands very much in contrast to the two Largo Risoluto Movements from 1908, which take the hearer on a guided tour of a compositional experimentation lab. Finally, the art of Charles Ives culminates in the middle movement of the String Quartet No. 2 (1907-1913), in which kaleidoscopic classical quotations from the symphonic music of Tchaikovsky, Brahms, and Beethoven are mixed with popular ironic American march melodies.

New Dimensions

The now more than twenty MDG recordings with the Leipzig String Quartet have set new standards in interpretive culture: "Highly acclaimed and prize-winning performances the world over" (*Midem News*) - "One of the most sophisticated and imaginative ensembles recording at the moment" (*BBC*) - "One of the most distinguished string quartets of the younger European chamber scene" (*Neue Zürcher Zeitung*) - "A new format ... a new dimension" (*FonoForum*) - "One of the finest ensembles of its kind now" (*Fanfare*)

Kurt Weill: Complete String Quartets

Paul 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 |

W. A. Mozart:

String Quartets KV 575, 589 & 590
MDG 307 0936-2 (2 for 1)

Andreas Romberg: String Quartets

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| op. 1, 1-3 | MDG 307 0963-2 |
| op. 2, 2; 16,2; 30,1 | MDG 307 1026-2 |

