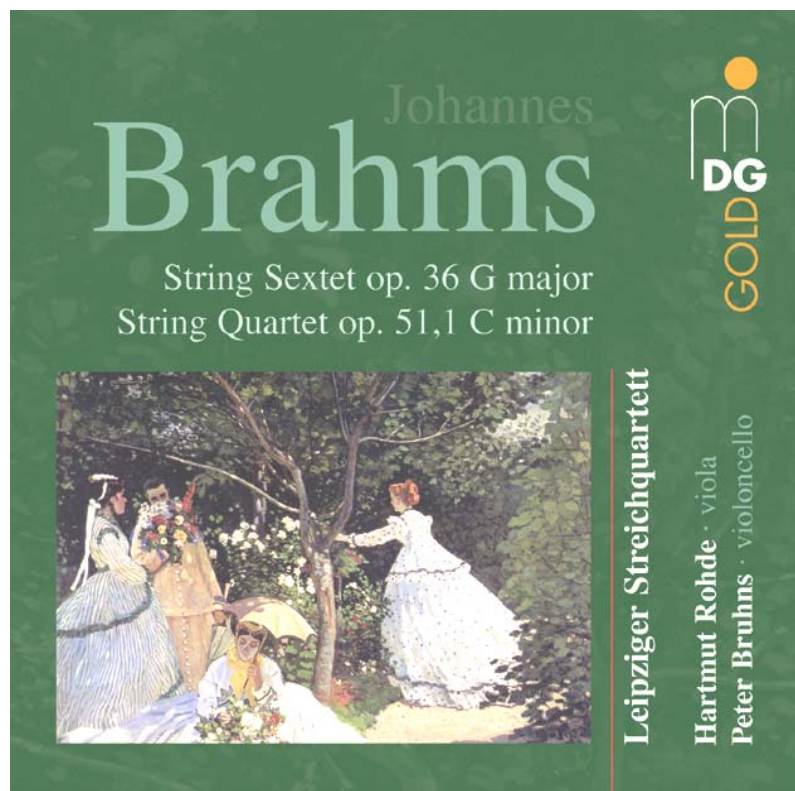


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11/04-(6)

Title:

Johannes Brahms
Sextet op. 36
Quartet op. 51, 1

Artists:

Leipziger Streichquartett
Hartmut Rohde, Viola (op. 36)
Peter Bruhns, Violoncello (op. 36)

Number of CDs: 1

Order No.:

MDG 307 1281-2

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Distinguished Company

On its last volume devoted to Brahms's chamber music, the Leipzig String Quartet again teams up with renowned instrumentalists in the violist Hartmut Rohde and the violoncellist Peter Bruhns. This time the musicians play their way to first place in the interpretive league with the famous Sextet in G major op. 36 and the Quartet op. 51,1.

Genuine Touchstone

While many of his fellow composers turned to genres of greater fashion appeal (because of their spectacularity), throughout his life Brahms unwaveringly adhered to chamber music as the genuine touchstone of compositional artistry. For him substance, not tinkling, is what counted.

Serious Questions

Brahms's publishers were sceptical. Could a work of the complexity of the G major sextet find its way into the salons? Would the interpreters detect all its hidden allusions? Among them the note series a-g-a-h-e [h=b] in the first movement, a reference to Agathe von Siebold, the young composer's sweetheart?

Fascinating Quality

Contemporaries (spoiled by lighter fare) shook their heads most of all at the melancholy warmth of the sextet's tone colors. At the time nobody knew that this tone of archaic character would go onto become a fascinating quality specific to Brahms.

Simply the Finest

"This is the finest Brahms playing one could ever hope to hear" (*Classic CD*).

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