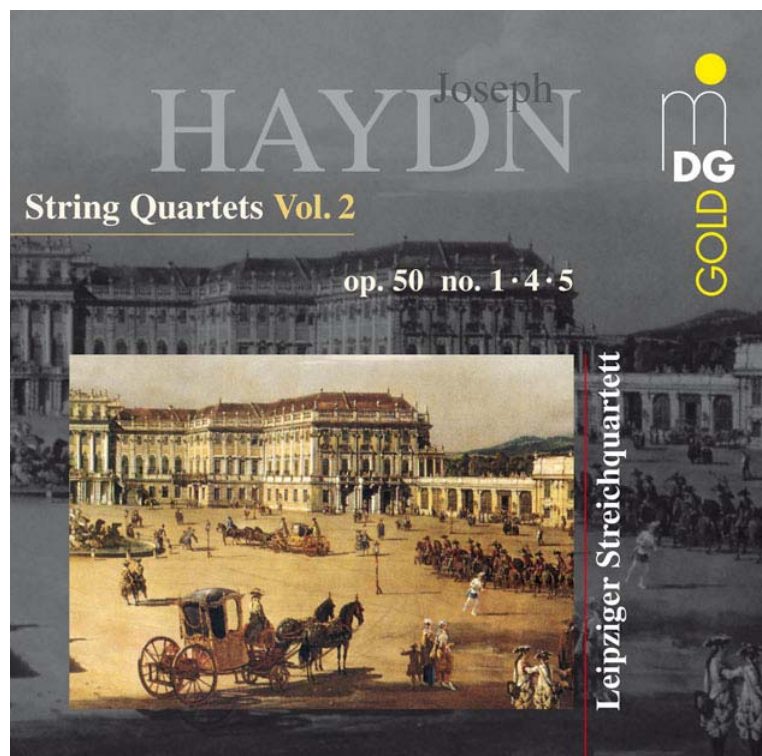


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10/09-(5)

Title:

Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)
String Quartets Vol. 2
op. 50 No. 1, 4 + 5

Artists:

Leipziger Streichquartett

1 CD

Order No.:

MDG 307 1585-2

UPC-Code:



7 60623 15852 5

Monarchical Memento

The Leipzig String Quartet continues its edition of Joseph Haydn's string quartets during the two hundredth anniversary year of his death with three more such works (op. 50, Nos. 1, 4, and 5). The composer dedicated these mature works from the years 1786-87 to Frederick William II because this Prussian monarch had recently presented him with a valuable ring.

Mozartian Motivation

Haydn composed his "Prussian Quartets" after what seems to have been a very hectic phase in his life: over years his duties as court music director to Prince Esterházy had left him neither time nor leisure for the composition of a series of string quartets. Mozart may possibly have motivated him to return to occupation with this genre. Mozart's "Haydn Quartets" published in 1785 not only are dedicated to Haydn but also are studded with striking musical quotations from his fellow composer's work. Perhaps Haydn believed that the time had come to reply to the great Salzburgian with a composition of his own.

Structuring Sequence

The classical four-movement form of the string quartet manifests itself in Haydn's Quartet op. 50. In each quartet two weighty movements, one at the beginning and the other at the end, usually in sonata form, frame a slow movement and a minuet movement.

Stellar Standard

The some seventy CDs of the Leipzig String Quartet, including complete recordings of works by Mendelssohn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Berg, Schönberg, and Webern have won countless prizes. Vol. 1 of this Haydn edition also met with an enthusiastic response from the critics:

"With this recording the Leipzig String Quartet sets a very high standard for the subsequent volumes of its Haydn recording" (klassik.com)

"I know no other version that is as expressive as this interpretation by the Leipzig String Quartet" (Pizzicato).

"These artists help fulfill Haydn's aim to make the 'greatest impression possible on the soul'" (The STRAD).

Joseph Haydn: String Quartets Vol. 1

The seven last words of Christ
MDG 907 1550-6 (SACD)

Leoš Janaček : String Quartets No. 1+2

Antonín Dvořák : Cypresses
MDG 307 1472-2

String Quartets by Opera Composers

Works by Wagner, Puccini, Respighi, Verdi, Humperdinck
Ruth Ziesak, soprano
MDG 307 1495-2