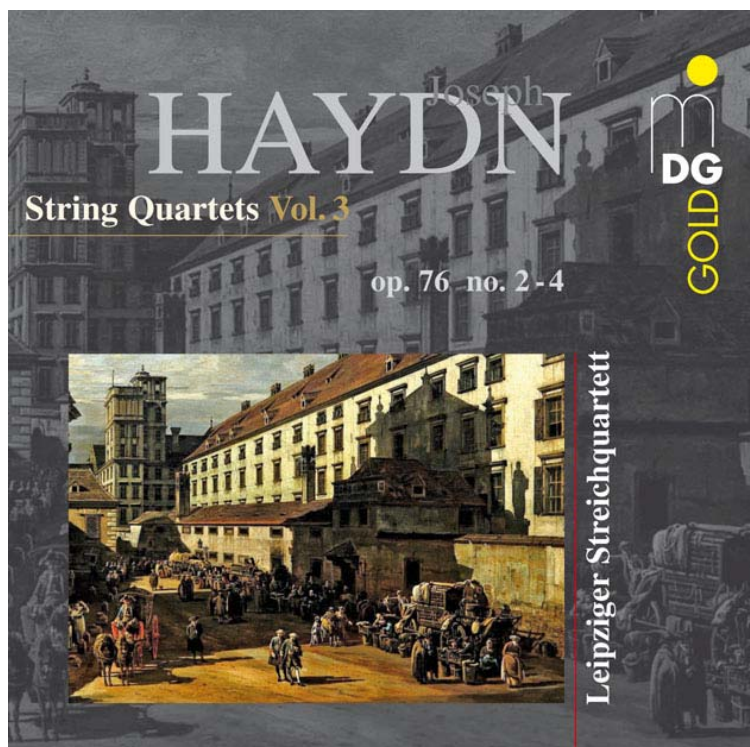


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02/11-(5)

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)
String Quartets Vol. 3
op. 76 No. 2-4

Leipziger Streichquartett

1 CD

Order Number: MDG 307 1683-2

UPC-Code:



LC06768

Purchase Price

When Count Erdödi commissioned Haydn to pen six string quartets, he was willing to pay a hundred ducats for them and the private performance rights. These quartets would become the most famous such works from the composer's late period. In conjunction with its MDG Haydn edition the Leipzig String Quartet now turns to the Fifths, Sunrise, and Emperor Quartets from op. 76.

Genre Experience

Joseph Haydn had made contributions to the string quartet for three decades, establishing it as a genre, when the first edition of op. 76 was published simultaneously in London and Vienna in 1800. The by then internationally renowned composer from Eisenstadt was no longer interested in extroverted virtuosity or his famous musical jokes so popular with the public. His extremely compressed writing style not without its surprises produced highly individual works that soon received "nicknames" all of their own.

Telling Traits

Two descending fifths mark the theme and the overall character of the D minor quartet known as the Fifths Quartet. A surprising garland with which the first violin rises up from the depths to the heights reminded listeners so very much of a sunrise in the second of the three that it soon was referred to as the Sunrise Quartet. The Emperor's Hymn commissioned from Haydn for heroic reasons became world famous. Haydn evidently loved his theme so much that he used it as the basis of the variation movement in the Emperor Quartet. Interestingly, it is not the theme that

is varied but "only" the accompaniment parts. Might he have ever thought that the same song would continue to enjoy an official state function even today – as the German national anthem?

Quartet Expertise

The previous recordings in the Haydn edition demonstrate that the Leipzig String Quartet has hit on an approach to this music that is modern as well as thoroughly historically informed and above all always gripping. They easily number among the best releases in this genre. Perhaps one secret here lies in the use of old bows that are not spanned as tightly and thus produce a different sound picture.

Stupendous Start

Joseph Haydn: String Quartets
Vol. 1 Die sieben letzten Worte
unseres Erlösers am Kreuz
MDG 907 1550-6 (SACD)

Vol. 2 op. 50 No. 1, 4 + 5
MDG 307 1585-2



"une très bonne lecture de l'oeuvre" (Classica)
"These artists help fulfil Haydn's aim to make the greatest impression possible on the soul" (The STRAD)

"All in all, this is an outstanding release."
(International Record Review)

"This should turn out to be one of the most interesting cycles in recent years." (www.classical.net)