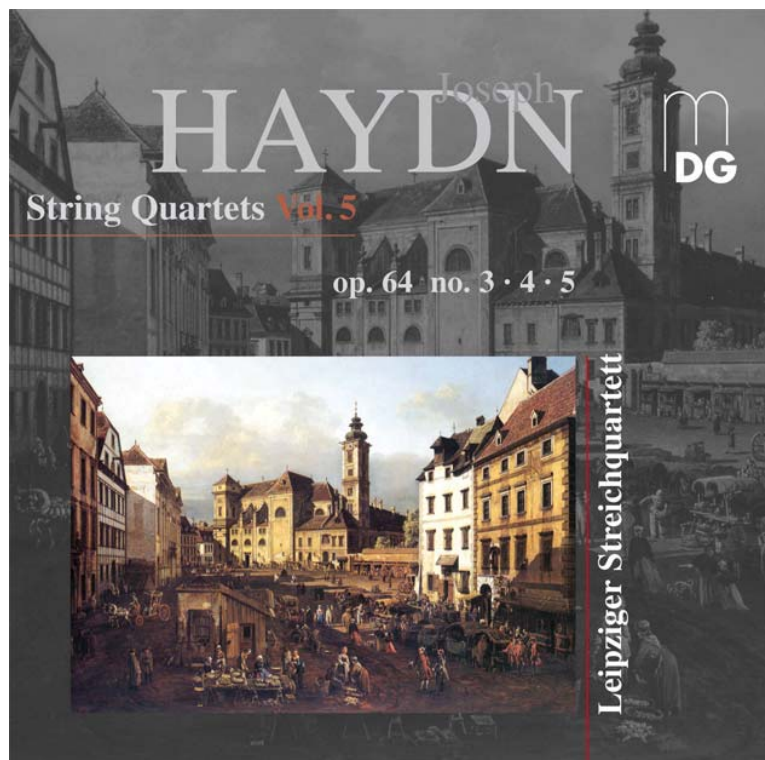


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03/12-(5)

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)
String Quartets Vol. 5
Quartets op. 64 No. 3, 4 & 5

Leipziger Streichquartett

1 CD

Order No.: MDG 307 1723-2

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LC06768

New Heights

The Leipzig String Quartet's exploration of Haydn reaches a new high point on Vol. 5. Three quartets from his op. 64 are on the programme, and they include his famous "Lark Quartet," which numbers among the most popular works of its genre. Haydn composed these pieces at the height of his mastery and with them opened the series of his important late works.

Opening Gambit

After thirty years of service to Prince Nikolaus von Esterházy, Haydn suddenly became independent after the prince's death and moved to Vienna with a guaranteed pension. In these extremely comfortable circumstances, he wrote the works of a master who had no need to prove anything to anybody. And yet Haydn always had his surprises in store. What clearly sounds like the main theme in the Lark Quartet soon turns out to be a mere accompaniment figure of the theme proper. A genial gambit and one that certainly would have pleased Prince Nikolaus. The song-like leading to this theme in the first violin has lent the work its popular name.

Mutual Profit

The six Quartets op. 64 were printed in London – which is hardly remarkable, given the fact that the impresario Johann Peter Salomon had invited the world-famous Haydn to the English capital. It was

surely a profitable move for both parties: Haydn's public appearances were a complete success and made the cash registers ring, and the composer, who in Esterháza and Eisenstadt had composed only for his employer and his guests, just as warmly welcomed approval from a broad public.

New Insights

The recordings of the Leipzig String Quartet have long enjoyed benchmark status. Historically informed, employing the whole spectrum of modern expressive possibilities, the ensemble again and again is able to uncover new aspects in highly familiar works.

Joseph Haydn: String Quartets

Vol. 1:

Die sieben letzten Worte des Erlösers am Kreuz
MDG 907 1550-6 (Hybrid-SACD)

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

Vol. 3: op. 76, No. 2-4
MDG 307 1683-2

Vol. 4: op. 20, No. 2, 4 + 6
MDG 307 1706-2

