



09/10-(6)

**August Klughardt**

(1847-1902)

Piano Quintet op. 43

String Quintet op. 62

**Leipziger Streichquartett**

**Olga Gollej, piano**

**Julian Steckel, violoncello**

1 CD

**Order No.: MDG 307 1652-2**

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**Side Path**

August Klughardt chose an interesting side path that long remained unexplored among all the highways and byways of nineteenth-century music history. The Leipzig String Quartet once again offers this multifaceted composer his share of the spotlight in interpretations of two of his quintets, with spirited guest performances by the pianist Olga Gollej and the cellist Julian Steckel who won the first prize plus the Audience Prize of the ARD Music Competition in September 2010.

**Independent Mind**

Klughardt is not one to be assigned to this or that musical camp. Although he was greatly influenced by an encounter with Franz Liszt in Weimar while serving as a conductor and his enthusiasm for Richard Wagner's music is also documented, he always maintained his independence. His diversity is also attested in his chamber music. Apart from rarities, Klughardt always availed himself of various ensembles ranging from the piano trio through the string quartet, quintet, and sextet to the piano quintet as recorded here.

**Middle Course**

Schumann's Quintet in E flat major op. 44 from 1842 was Klughardt's model for the composition of his Piano Quintet in G minor op. 43 in 1884. The Dessau conductor nevertheless could not ignore the

symphonic playing style prevalent in this genre toward the end of the century. His middle course combines the fine art of chamber-musical thematic elaboration and orchestral sonority. Klughardt sets other focal points in his String Quintet op. 62. After a rhapsodic beginning and some "Hungarian touches" here the contrapuntal details occupy the center.

**Wide Spectrum**

Since its founding in 1988 the Leipzig String Quartet has released almost seventy CDs exclusively on MDG. The spectrum covered by these discs highly acclaimed by the critics and public alike ranges from Mozart to Cage and from Weill to Beethoven and includes complete recordings of the quartets of Johannes Brahms, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and of all the members of the Second Viennese School. The high value assigned to these productions is shown by the ensemble's many awards: the Diapason d'Or, Premios CD-Compact, and Indie Award on numerous occasions and Echo Klassik prizes in 1999, 2000, 2003, and 2008.

**Robert Schumann**

Piano Quintet op. 44

String Quartets op. 41

Christian Zacharias, piano

Leipziger Streichquartett

**MDG 307 1610-2 (2 CDs)**

