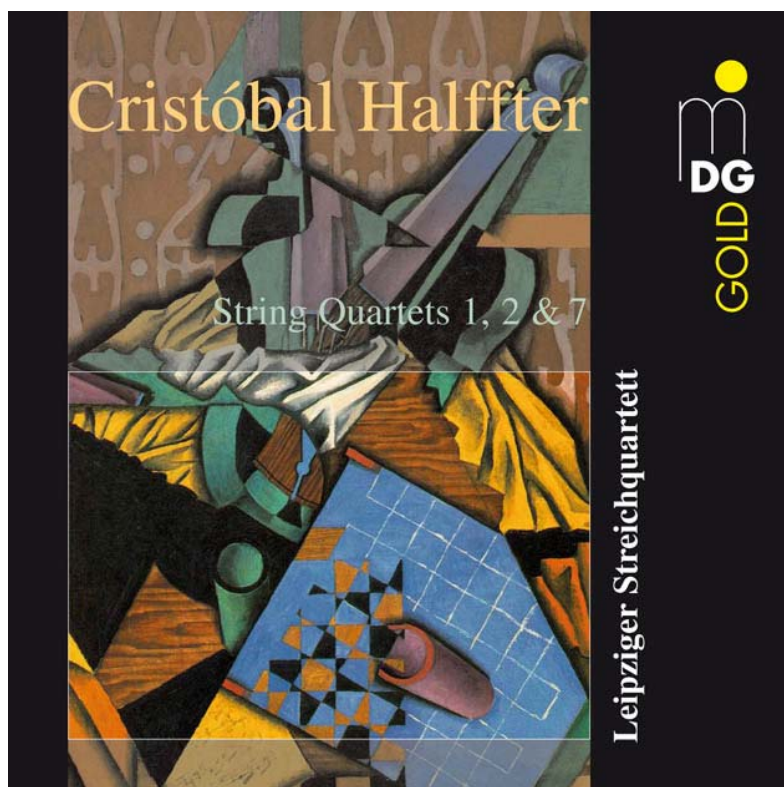


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11/10-(5)

Cristóbal Halffter (* 1930)
String Quartets No. 1, 2 and 7

Leipziger Streichquartett

1 CD

Order No.: MDG 307 1671-2

UPC-Code:



LC06768

Epochal Achievement

Even today a great deal of courage and self-confidence is evidently required for occupation with the genre of the string quartet after Beethoven's epochal achievement. The Leipzig String Quartet shows with its own compelling and consummate artistry how Cristóbal Halffter has successfully transmitted the tradition of his great model into the present.

Imaginary Dialogue

Cristóbal Halffter, one of today's leading Spanish composers, was a member of the "Generación del 51", a group united in artistic opposition to the Franco regime. Halffter very early tried his hand at twelve-tone technique. Slight hints in this direction are encountered already in his first, still quite conventional string quartet, which he dedicated in 1956 to the *Trois pièces* by Igor Stravinsky. Fourteen years later a commission for a composition on the occasion of the two hundredth anniversary of Beethoven's birth resulted in his second string quartet. Three quotations from the birthday boy's op. 135 open what is a most highly effective imaginary dialogue between two composers and across the centuries.

Continuous Occupation

Halffter has continued to occupy himself with his great model. When he composed his seventh string quartet in 2007, he made reference to Beethoven's op. 131, writing his own *Espacio de silencio* in seven parts, the one going over into the other. The only break between

the movements comes in the form of verses by the Spanish poet Jorge Manrique. Halffter has the musicians and public read these texts in silence – a breather of sorts as one makes one's way through this magnificent musical space.

Perennial Optimum

During the two decades since its founding the Leipzig String Quartet has recorded more than seventy CDs, including complete recordings of the quartets of Mendelssohn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Berg, Schönberg, and Webern. Most of them have met with countless distinctions. "A benchmark disc! ... An optimum of faithfulness to the work and artistic clarity" (*Fonoforum*).

Robert Schumann

Piano Quintet op. 44
String Quartets op. 41
with Christian Zacharias, piano
MDG 307 1610-2 (2 CDs)

Jörg Widmann (* 1973)

String Quartets No. 1-5
with Juliane Banse (No. 5)
MDG 307 1531-2

Kurt Weill: String Quartets
Paul Hindemith : Minimax
MDG 307 1071-2

