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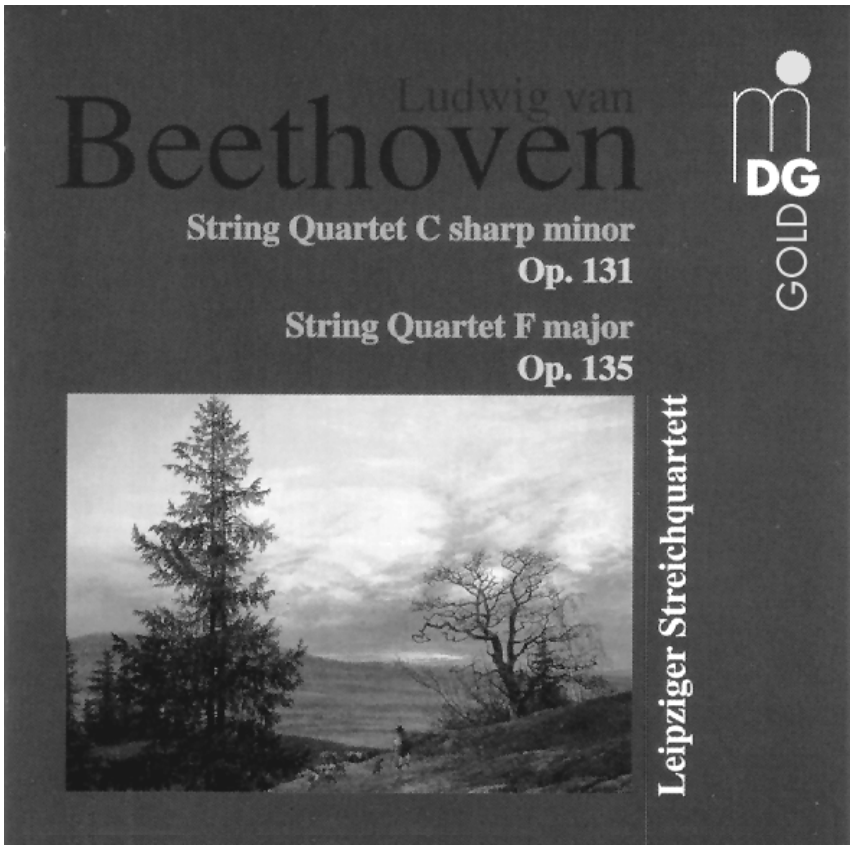

98/5/-(5)

Title:
Ludwig van Beethoven
String Quartets opp. 131 + 135

Musicians:
Leipziger Streichquartett

Number of CDs: 1

Order Number:
MDG 307 0820-2

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Double Culmination

The two compositions on this CD represent a double culmination: the musical language of a genius at the height of his compositional powers and the dazzling finale of the Leipzig String Quartet's world concert tour featuring these works.

Stumbling Block

A seven-movement string quartet? Beethoven's op. 131 has more than one riddle to it. His contemporaries could not quite understand his late quartets, and the deaf composer alluded to their stumbling in the motto of the finale of what turned out to be his last finished work, "Must it be?"

It must be!

The compositional innovations with which Beethoven challenged audiences and instrumentalists alike are comparable to the Schönbergian revolution of the early twentieth century. All the more reason for the Leipzig String Quartet to return to Beethoven, the supposed romanticist, following its acclaimed Schubert and Schönberg CD cycles!

International Following

The outstanding Leipzig String Quartet records its extensive repertoire exclusively on the MDG label - an undertaking followed with great interest in the international music press:

"The interpretation is charged with suspense...is full of high chamber-musical spirits and finely chiseled. The enormous wealth of tone colors is extremely compelling and makes us eager for further Beethoven recordings from Leipzig" (*FonoForum*).
"Perfect!" (*Diapason*).
"The Leipzig String Quartet's interpretation offers new insights into the genius of Beethoven."

- Beethoven: String Quartets op. 59,1 and op. 14,1
MDG 307 0707-2

- Schönberg: String Quartet No.1 op.7 MDG L 3462

- Schönberg: String Quartet No.3 op. 30 and
Verklärte Nacht op. 4
(with Hartmut Rohde and Michael Sanderling)
MDG 307 0773-2

- Schubert: Complete String Quartets
Vol. 1-9: MDG 307 0601-2
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"A landmark undertaking" (Fanfare)

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