



02/07-(5)

Title:
Ludwig van Beethoven
 (1770-1827)
 Quartet op. 130
 Great Fugue op. 133

Musicians:
 Leipziger Streichquartett

1 CD

Order Number:
 MDG 307 0851-2

UPC-Code:



Finishing Line

The Beethoven cycle of the Leipzig String Quartet is now complete. One of the most sought-after and most multifaceted ensembles of our time crosses the finishing line with a work with an extremely complicated compositional history. The Bonn composer's Opus 130 was premiered twice within thirteen months with two different conclusions ... in response to a request from his publisher.

Proper Closure

The first version concluded with a fugue that even the Beethoven intimate Karl Holz characterized as "difficult to grasp" for a string quartet. This friend who accompanied the master during the last years of his life convinced Beethoven to assign the fugue the status of an independent work of art (Opus 133) and to add a new finale to Opus 130. It was more pleasing to the ears of the publisher and the public, but its compositional standards were no less rigorous.

High and Low

The "German dance" is another special feature in what was one of Beethoven's last works. Originally, quite earthy and danced above all by the lower classes, this genre later gave rise to the waltz. The composer's inclusion of a movement with this heading in one of his most finely crafted works produces a provocative contrast between high art and folk art – such as Gustav Mahler also would later employ very effectively in his symphonies.

Winner's Circle

Gramophone celebrates "the best German quartet." And indeed the Leipzig String Quartet, founded in 1988, has played its way to many prizes and distinctions and won the hearts of audiences in more than forty countries. In the words of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* these musicians are distinguished by "absolute flawlessness of intonation" and "lovingly precise meticulousness." "If there is a Leipzig sound, this is it!" This is how the *New York Times* characterizes the capabilities of Andreas Seidel, Tilman Büning, Ivo Bauer, and Matthias Moosdorf, who for many years have recorded their repertoire exclusively on MDG.

Ludwig van Beethoven: String Quartets
 op. 18,1 and 4 MDG 307 0853-2
 op. 18, 2 and 5 MDG 307 0855-2
 op. 18,3 and 6 MDG 307 0856-2
 op. 59,1 and 14 MDG 307 0707-2
 op. 59,3 and 74 MDG 307 0852-2
 op. 59, 3 and 95 MDG 307 0857-2
 op. 127 and 132 MDG 307 0854-2
 op. 131 and 135 MDG 307 0820-2



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