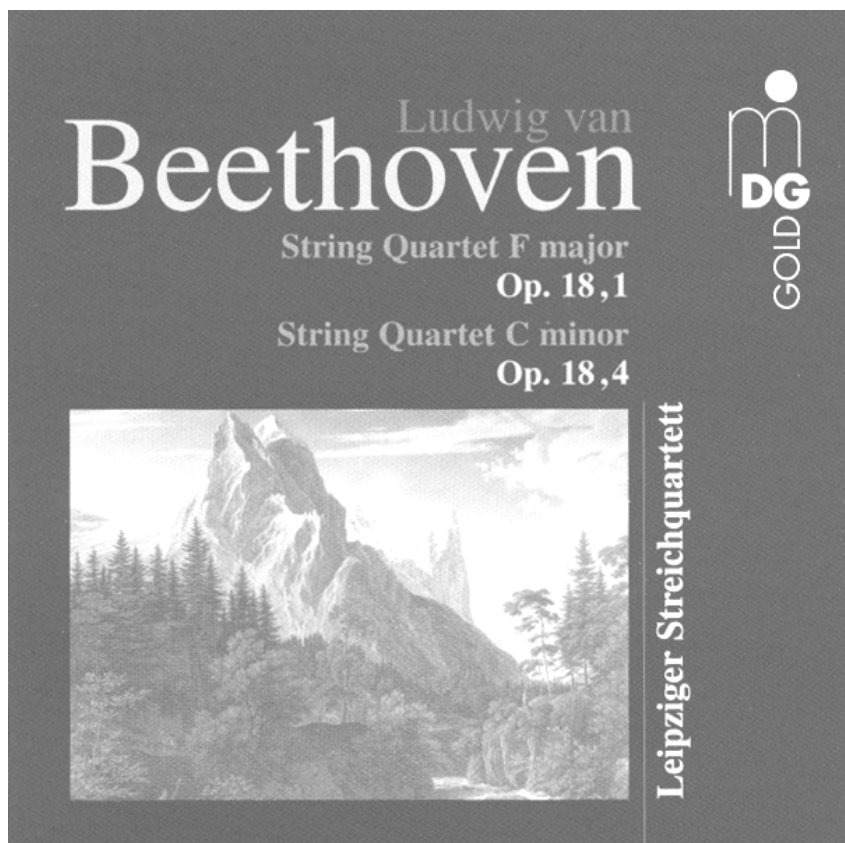


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05/00- (5)

Title:
Ludwig van Beethoven
Quartets op. 18, 1 & 4

Musicians:
Leipziger Streichquartett

Number of CDs: 1

Order Number:
MDG 307 0853-2

UPC-Code:



Storm and Stress

Ludwig van Beethoven was already twenty-nine years old when he made his first tentative move toward the string quartet in his op. 18/1 and op. 18/4. In contrast, the Leipzig String Quartet has conquered this instrumental bastion by storm.

Big Plunge

Beethoven was a cautious genius. In Vienna, pampered as it had been by Mozart and Haydn, Beethoven first tested the musical waters with piano compositions - a good bet, since he was regarded as the best keyboard performer and improviser in town. After he had taken the big plunge with his first string quartets, he revised them years later "since I only now understand how to write quartets properly."

Music History in the Making

Beethoven was not one to get bogged down in self-criticism; rather, originality was his guiding principle in life. He had no equals when it came to deriving the tonal material for the overall composition from motivic cores (note groups of astonishing simplicity) and loaded his quartets with emotions not infrequently taxing his audience's patience. It was only the feeling that they were experiencing music history in the making that kept his original Viennese listeners from looking for the first door.

Quotable

The Leipzig String Quartet has earned praise by the reams for its impressive repertoire recorded exclusively on MDG. And new superlatives from enthusiastic critics keep rolling in:

"Höchst empfehlenswert" (Stereoplay).

"Parfaitement" (Diapason).

"Most Attractive" (Gramophone).

"Bien fait" (Répertoire).

"Most sophisticated" (BBC).

"Eine so utopische wie geglückte Einspielung" (FonoForum).

"Excellent job" (Fanfare).

F. Schubert:

Sämtliche String Quartets

Vol. 1-9: MDG 307 0601-2 to 307 0609-2



Ludwig van Beethoven: String Quartets

op. 59,1 and 14

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op. 59,3 and 74

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op. 131 and 135

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