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08/99-(5)

Title:

Arnold Schönberg
String Quartet D major
(1897)
String Quartet op. 7

Musicians:

Leipziger Streichquartett

Number of CDs: 1

Order Number:

MDG 307 0919-2

UPC-Code:



High Suspense

Two early compositions by Schönberg from the turn of the century in performances by the Leipzig String Quartet: the late-romantic Quartet in D major from the year of Brahms' death and the String Quartet No. 1 op. 7. As always with these four eminent Leipzig chamber musicians: high suspense is in store!

Deep Faith

The remarkable Quartet in D major of 1897 (without opus number) shows us the later revolutionary as a young man still clearly obliged to tradition. His then deep faith in late-romantic (sound) ideals is reflected in his employment of forms such as the sonata movement, variation movement, and rondo.

Only the Beginning

As we know from Schönberg's painstaking journal entries, he was at work on his String Quartet No. 1 in the spring of 1904. He designed it while passing through his extended-tonality phase, and it demonstrates his peculiar predilection for D minor, the key of *Verklärte Nacht* and *Pelleas und Melisande*. At this stage surprise rather than rage characterized the reaction of music experts to the extravagance of this quartet. They described it as "harmonically bold" and "rhythmically intricate" without knowing that this was only the beginning of a whole new musical aesthetic.

Not Without Reason

It is not without reason that the four musician members of the Leipzig String Quartet have earned a first-class reputation in the chamber-music world. At the very latest since their MDG releases with compositions by the second Viennese school and their spectacular Schubert cycle, Andreas Seidel, Tilman Büning, Ivo Bauer, and Matthias Moosdorf have been regarded as the "most sophisticated and imaginative ensemble at the moment" (BBC). They now have more than thirty CDs to their credit, exclusively on MDG:

F. Schubert:

Complete String Quartets
Vol. 1-9 MDG 307 0601-2 to 307 0609-2



Ludwig van Beethoven: String Quartets

op. 59,3 and 74 MDG 307 0852-2
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W. A. Mozart

Prussian Quartets KV 575, 589 and 590
MDG 307 0936-2 (2 CDs at the price of 1)