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08/03-(6)

Title:

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)
Complete String Quartets
Vol. 3: op. 44, 3 + 80

Musicians:

Leipziger Streichquartett

Number of CDs: 1

Order Number :

MDG 307 1056-2

UPC-Code:



Breathtaking Success

Felix Mendelssohn and the Leipzig String Quartet have more in common than their immediate and immense success. When the topic of sensational new recordings comes up, these composing and interpreting kindred spirits are increasingly mentioned together in one and the same breath. The BBC catapulted Vol. 1 of the quartets to the position of "Top CD of the Month."

Mature Artistry

The quartets brought together on this CD show us Mendelssohn on his way to mature artistry. The classical balance of the op. 44 cycle makes it an important signpost along the path culminating in the String Quartet op. 80. Mendelssohn did not make this trek easy for himself. His self-critical attitude, which he termed a "bad habit" and one that he "would like to get rid of but can't," stalled his work on the quartet.

Musical Reminiscences

Mendelssohn composed the Andante (olim op. 81,1) and Scherzo (olim op. 81,2) recorded here in 1847. Both compositions have the effect of a reminiscence of the bygone, carefree times that he hardly enjoyed at all during the last year of his life, in particular after Fanny Mendelssohn's death.

Quartet Surprises

On a first hearing Mendelssohn's String Quartet op. 80 surprises the listeners with musical language: it is unexpectedly abrupt and choleric, anticipates developments yet to come, and verges on expressionism. In all four movements he breaks with organic harmony, while the rhythmic element comes into the foreground. Shortly after the completion of the work, on November 4, 1847, Mendelssohn died in his Leipzig home.

Leipzig Sound

"If there is a Leipzig sound, this it is!" (*New York Times*); "First-rate performance" (*BBC*); "Most attractive" (*Gramophone*); "Reference" (*FonoForum*); "Perfect" (*Diapason*).

Miles & more

Felix Mendelssohn: Complete String Quartets

Vol. 1: op. 12 + 13 MDG 301 1055-2
Vol. 2: op. 44, 1 + 2 MDG 301 1168-2

Ludwig van Beethoven: String Quartets

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op. 131 und 135 MDG 307 0820-2
op. 18,1 und 18,4 MDG 307 0853-2
op. 59,1 und 14,1 MDG 307 0707-2

W. A. Mozart:

String Quartets KV 575, 589 & 590
MDG 307 0936-2

