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08/12-(6)

Russian String Quartets

Afanasiev: "Volga"
Rimsky-Korsakov: "Chorale",
Fugue "In the Monastery"
Rachmaninov: Romanze and Scherzo
Borodin: String Quartet No. 2

Leipziger Streichquartett

1 CD

Order-No.: MDG 307 1758-2

UPC-Code:



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LC06768

Romantic Journey

Visit fascinating Russian musical sites with the Leipzig String Quartet! Inspired by the thrill of discovery, these four top musicians set out on an adventure-filled expedition to romantic Russia and unearth genuine treasures along the way. The journey cannot fail to take them to "The Mighty Handful," the group of composers led by Balakirev who espoused the renewal of Russian music in the nineteenth century. The great discovery on this CD is Nikolai Afanasiev's *Volga*, a masterful string quartet integrating melodies of folk character and virtuosity into four wonderful quartet movements.

Russian Idiom

In quest of a Russian musical idiom these composers enthused by the idea of nation relied entirely on their own resources. The only models for the compositional autodidacts among them were Western ones, from which they wanted to emancipate themselves. And so it was that they turned to the Russian folk song, which made its way into chamber and orchestral music both with moving simplicity and with the finest artistry.

Sacred Opulence

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov availed himself of a sacred work. His fugue "In the Monastery" combines European compositional technique with Russian melody. Tonal refinement also gets its fair share: along the way the bells of a Russian Orthodox monastery sound with typical opulence.

Soulful Tribute

Alexander Borodin is represented by his famous String Quartet No. 2, with its rapturously overflowing melody that immediately inspired enthusiasm among his contemporaries. Hard to believe but true – how a compositional autodidact produced a veritable double fugue as its finale! For its part, Sergei Rachmaninov's "Romance and Scherzo" is of unique harmonic finesse – an outstanding program celebrating the Russian soul.