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09/16-(5)

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)
Early String Quartets Vol. 1
KV 80, 155, 159, 169, 170

Leipziger Streichquartett

1 CD

MDG 307 1975-2

UPC-Code:



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Genial Beginnings

Many years ago the Leipzig String Quartet created a sensation with Mozart's ten famous string quartets. Now this exceptional ensemble awarded numerous prizes turns to the practically neglected works of the Salzburg master's youth – and with clear results: their inimitable melodic suppleness reveals a budding genius with a boundless imagination and anticipates the wonderful arias and cantilenas of Mozart's great operas.

On the Road

Mozart composed the five quartets recorded here between the ages of fourteen and seventeen. As his father Leopold wrote home in a letter, the boy composed the first of these works, KV 80, out of boredom while spending the night at an inn in Lodi on their way to Milan. And even if much in this work recalls the Baroque trio sonata, here too an independent spirit already manifests itself. The very first entry of the second violin in the third measure of the opening andante with an almost ethereally high D captures our full listening attention before the two violins unite in idyllic thirds.

In Rich Surplus

The slow movements above all make a fine impression. Although in the fast movements technical perfection cannot always keep up with the steady flow of ideas, the freshest of pictures and spirited surprises always result. Especially in the second movement of KV 159 the thematic richness is so impressive that there is simply not enough time to work it out in full in

the development section. Only twenty measures? For the moment, for youthful insight, more than enough!

Unconventional Leanings

As in various quartets penned by Haydn, KV 170 begins with a variation movement. But even here the theme is anything but conventional: a rest insert disrupts the "classical" symmetry, and the fact that the variations do not always turn out the same the second time around supplies even more suspense. The Leipzig String Quartet presents these pieces with just the right blend of naturalness and sovereignty – which means that even now we can look forward to the sequel!

The Leipzig String Quartet plays Mozart's Haydn Quartets:

Vol. 1: KV 387 and 421
MDG 307 1035-2

Vol. 2: KV 458 and 465
MDG 307 1107-2

Vol. 3: KV 428 and 464
MDG 307 1160-2

SUPERSONIC
pizzicato

