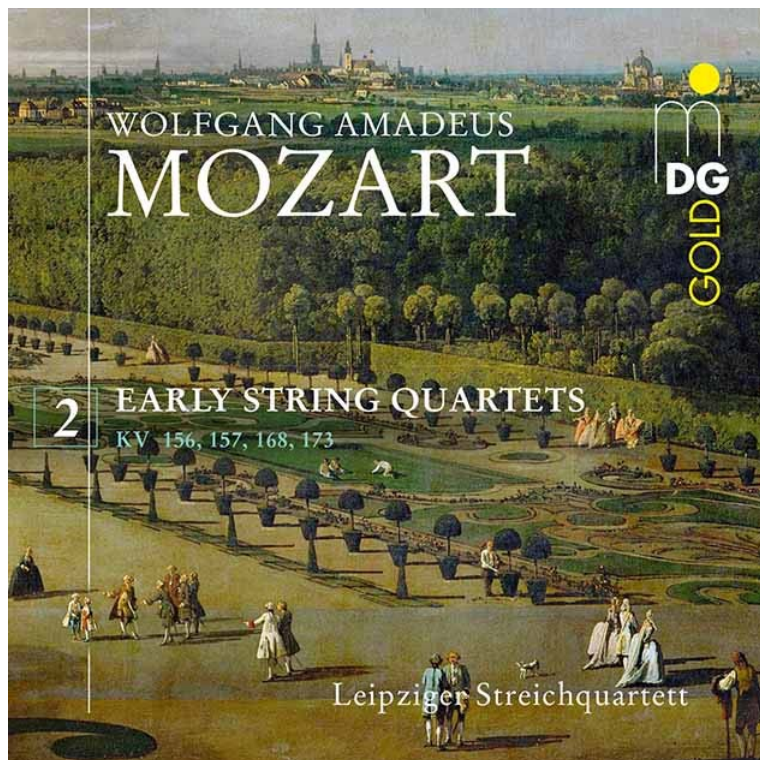


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**MDG**  
GOLD



03/17-(5)

**W.A. Mozart** (1756-1791)  
Early String Quartets Vol. 2  
KV 156, 157, 168 & 173

**Leipziger Streichquartett**

1 CD

**MDG 307 1976-2**

UPC-Code:



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LC06768

### International Departures

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart must have felt bored to death in small-town Salzburg! Fortunately, his ambitious father regularly gave him the opportunity to experience big-time action. On extended concert tours he introduced his genial son at courts and in salons, and the boy took advantage of his absence from the Prince Archbishop's court to absorb all sorts of impressions for use in his own music. It was on his travels to Italy and to imperial Vienna that he composed the thirteen string quartets featured on this edition by the Leipzig String Quartet – now in its second volume . . . and to be continued!

### Inviting Destinations

Mozart's pure delight in experimentation is clearly audible in these pieces. The two "Milan Quartets" KV. 156 and 157 performed here incorporate elements of the Italian sinfonia, while the two "Viennese Quartets" KV. 168 and 173 show just how revelatory the seventeen-year-old Mozart's visit to the undisputed capital of the music world must have been for him. Both quartets end with the fugue obligatory in the Vienna of those times. However, while the dignified fugue in the Quartet in D minor concludes with an absolutely archaic idea, the fugue in the Quartet in F major assumes the form of a wildly rousing finale with racing sixteenth runs.

### Logical System

The systematic logic with which the young Mozart employs imitation as an element of design in the F major quartet is astonishing, and here even the

normally rather simple minuet is no exception. In the slow movement Mozart prescribes the use of mutes for all the instruments. Along with his imitative compositional technique and some ties, the result is an extremely unique atmosphere.

### Listening Suspense

The Leipzig String Quartet explores the youthful composer's discovery drive with audible joy. Historically informed and with bows proper to the period of the quartets' composition, the four musicians are ready to enjoy playing with chamber music's surprises. Not at all academic and far from any kind of historicizing dogmatism, they generate listening pleasure and suspense – so that we can hardly wait for the third volume!

### W.A. Mozart

Early String Quartets Vol. 1  
KV 80, 155, 159, 169, 170  
**MDG 307 1975-2**

### Haydn String 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



**PG** ★★★