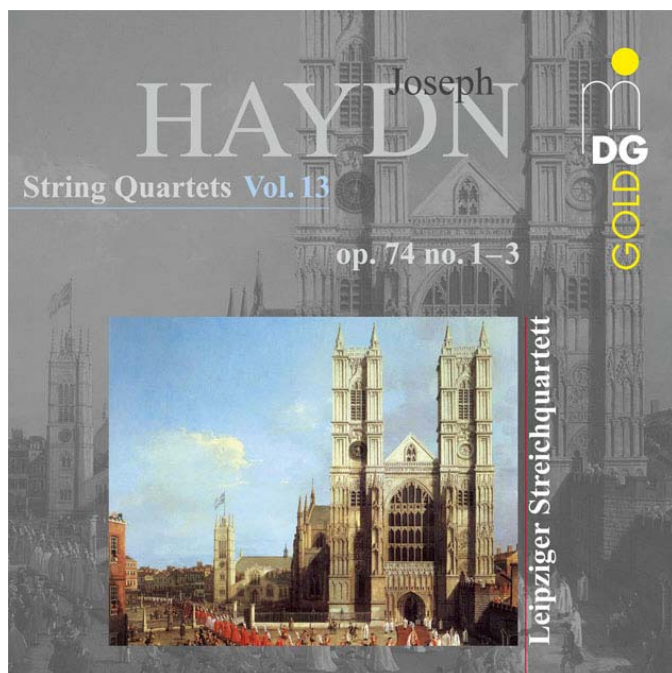


NEW • NOUVEAUTE • NEUHEIT

MDG
GOLD



Joseph Haydn
1732 – 1809

String Quartets Vol. 13

op. 74 no. 1, 2 & 3

Leipziger Streichquartett

MDG 307 2224-2



New horizon

After long, thoroughly satisfying years of service at the Esterhazy court, Joseph Haydn was given a well-deserved retirement in 1790 - with an unusually handsome pension. The composer, who was in great demand throughout the world, used his new freedom to travel, especially to London, and to compose string quartets again. With the first of these "Apponyi" quartets, the Leipzig String Quartet continues its Haydn series and presents another remarkable milestone in the quartet repertoire.

Too difficult

The quartets were virtually snatched out of Haydn's hands; Count Apponyi eventually secured exclusive rights for one year at a price of 100 gulden. Although popular with dilettantes, the Op. 74 quartets go beyond the limits of what can be performed by amateurs. The first violin in particular repeatedly attracts attention with virtuoso passages, but the other voices - just listen to the finale of the C major quartet - are also demanded to do a great deal.

At home

And Haydn remains true to himself: time and again he surprises players and listeners alike with irregular periods, inserted bars, sudden pauses... And there are echoes of folk music, such as drone surfaces or - in the B-flat major quartet - major/minor changes, which evoke associations with Haydn's years-long stay in Hungary and are a pleasure to listen to.

On horseback The G minor quartet is the only one of this group to bear a nickname: "Reiterquartett" Rider's refers to the lively finale, which the Leipzig musicians present with verve and delight in playing

truly "con brio". But many a slow movement in this quartet trias also spoils the discerning listener: great, timeless music of which there can never be enough.

already available:

- Vol. 1:** The Seven Last Words of our Saviour on the cross
(Hybrid-SACD) **MDG 907 1550-6**
- Vol. 2:** op. 50, No. 1, 4 & 5 **MDG 307 1585-2**
- Vol. 3:** op. 76, No. 2-4 **MDG 307 1683-2**
- Vol. 4:** op. 20, No. 2, 4 & 6 **MDG 307 1706-2**
- Vol. 5:** op. 64, No. 3-5 **MDG 307 1723-2**
- Vol. 6:** op. 33, No. 1, 3 & 5 **MDG 307 1812-2**
- Vol. 7:** op. 42, op. 77,1&2,103,42 **MDG 307 1860-2**
- Vol. 8:** op. 50, No. 2, 3 & 6 **MDG 307 1898-2**
- Vol. 9:** op.20, 1, 3, 5 **MDG 307 1925-2**
- Vol. 10:** op. 64,6; op.64,1; op. 64,2 **MDG 307 2093-2**
- Vol. 11:** op.17 No.1, 3&5 **MDG 307 2141-2**
- Vol. 12:** op. 17, No. 2, 4&6 **MDG 302 2142-2**

BBC Benchmark: best available version

