

Edvard Grieg - Complete String Quartets (1993)

Written by bluesever

Tuesday, 03 June 2014 16:00 -

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String Quartet no. 1 in G minor, op. 27 (1878) 1) *i Un poco andante. Allegro molto ed agitato* 2) *ii Romanze: Andantino. Allegro agitato* 3) *iii Intermezzo: Allegro molto marcato. Piu vivo e scherzando* 4) *iv Finale: Lento. Presto al Saltarello*

Fugue in F minor for String Quartet

5) *Allegro con fuoco*

Movement in C minor for Piano Trio (1878)

6) *Andante con moto*

String Quartet no. 2 in F major (completed by Julius Rontgen)

7) *i Sostenuto. Allegro vivace e grazioso* 8) *ii Allegro scherzando. Piu vivo* 9) *iii Adagio* 10) *iv Allegro giocoso*

Raphael String Quartet: Ronald Hoogeveen, violin Ramy Koch, violin Zoltan Benyacz, viola
Henk Lambooi, cello Jet Roling, piano (tr. 6)

String Quartet No. 1 in G minor, Op. 27. Grieg was, at root, a miniaturist. He did not often work in the large scale of the sonata form; his entire completed literature in this form consists of a symphony that he suppressed, one concerto, one cello sonata, three violin sonatas, and this quartet. (Later, he wrote two movements toward another one.) It was composed in 1877-1878. It is an exceedingly attractive and untroubled work, with a melodic spirit that recalls his best songs or piano works. One song-like figure in particular is used throughout. Grieg does treat his material in sonata fashion, but not rigorously. There is a feeling of Norwegian peasant dances in the scherzo, while the finale trots merrily with a saltarello rhythm. It is, in short, a lovable work, heartwarming in the way that Grieg's music so often is. --- Joseph Stevenson, Rovi

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