



03/08-(4)

Title:
String Quartets
by Wagner, Puccini, Respighi,
Verdi & Humperdinck

Musicians:
Ruth Ziesak, soprano
Leipziger Streichquartett

1 CD

Order Number:
MDG 307 1495-2

UPC-Code:



Global Players

For twenty years now the Leipzig String Quartet has been acclaimed on concert stages all around the globe. The ensemble's more than seventy recordings on MDG have long been regarded as benchmark achievements in many categories and are valuable additions to every recording collection.

Chamber Opera

Humperdinck, Puccini, Respighi, Verdi, and Wagner for string quartet? Yes, all these opera composers in their time wrote at least one string quartet. These works not infrequently marked important phases in their individual development and in some cases were masterpieces written "on the side."

Musical Bouquets

On Christmas Day 1881 Wagner inserted an album page of a few measures for his Cosima into the *Parsifal* score on which he was then working. Such musical greetings for lady friends were very much a tradition with him. Since the 1840s he had repeatedly penned little pieces and sent these musical bouquets to his sweethearts.

Romantic Imprint

It is not without reason that Engelbert Humperdinck's String Quartet in C major is presented together with Wagner's vignette on this CD. After all, Humperdinck assisted Wagner for three years in Bayreuth and experienced the composition of *Parsifal* at close range. It is not known when exactly Humperdinck

wrote his string quartet, but it bears the clear imprint of late romanticism.

Career Moments

The three other pieces featured on this recording document very different career moments. Puccini's *Crisantemi* is regarded as one of his first works, Verdi wrote his string quartet to pass the time during a trip to Naples, and Ottorino Respighi's melodrama // *Tramonto* brought him his artistic breakthrough. The versatile soprano Ruth Ziesak sings the solo part in this original setting of a poem by Shelley.

„Encores“

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