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08/09-(6)

Title:

Pavel Haas (1899-1944)
Wind Quintet op. 10
Suite for Oboe and Piano op. 17
String Quartet No. 3 op. 15

Artists:

Ensemble Villa Musica

1 CD

Order No.:

MDG 304 1527-2

UPC-Code:



Courageous Resistance

The Czech composer Pavel Haas opposed with all his musical might the conquest of his country by Hitler's Germany, but his efforts were in vain. German troops marched into Prague in March 1939, and the Jewish composer was deported to a concentration camp, where he wrote his last works prior to his murder in Auschwitz in 1944. The Ensemble Villa Musica presents three works by this courageous musician in the model interpretative style that has become its trademark.

Something to Say

Pavel Haas was initially a typical representative of the politically uninvolved generation that set out in quest of its artistic identity at the beginning of the twentieth century. He grew up in the late-romantic tradition and drew on Moravian folk songs and dances as a source of inspiration while also using synodal hymns and Gregorian chant and welcoming modern currents. At the same time, he held fast to the maxim that "a modern composer has to write what he himself has experienced," that his music has to have "something to say."

Steadfast Opposition

The contrasting moods represented by seriousness and mirth manifest themselves in the music of the Wind Octet op. 10 of 1920. A manuscript note in the String Quartet No. 3 from 1937-38 explains why the work makes such a forcefully aggressive impression. While Haas was composing it, he was listening to radio reports about the demonstration marches held by the Czech people in opposition to Hitler's desires for political expansion. These demonstrations and the Jewish composer's attempt to leave his native country were unsuccessful, and he worked through these negative experiences in

the summer and autumn of 1939 in his Suite for Oboe and Piano op. 17. To signal his resistance, he quoted two Czech chorales in this work. Its public premiere was held in 1946, after the composer's death.

Special Addition

The Ensemble Villa Musica, known for giving its artistic and emotional all to the interpretation of works ranging over the whole musical spectrum, now makes yet another special addition to its highly regarded series of composer portraits.

Bohuslav Martinu

Serenada I-IV, Quartet (1924)
MDG 304 0774-2



La Revue de Cuisine, Sextet, Nonet, Quatre Madrigaux
MDG 304 1439-2

Richard Strauss: Chamber Music

Vol. 1:
Till Eulenspiegel (arr.), Sonatina No. 2
MDG 304 1172-2



Vol. 2: Suite op. 4, Serenade op. 7, Sonatina
'Aus der Werkstatt eines Invaliden'
MDG 304 1173-2

