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09/09-(5)

Title:

W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)
Piano Quartets
G minor KV 478, E flat major KV 493

Musicians:

Mozart Piano Quartet

1 Hybrid-SACD

222[®]
RECORDING

Order Number:

MDG 943 1579-6

UPC-Code:



Founding Father

Today Mozart's piano quartets (KV 478 and KV 493) rank not only as the highlights of his piano oeuvre but also as the founding documents of this musical genre. No doubt about it: these works offer the Mozart Piano Quartet a special opportunity for paying homage to their musical patron in the best MDG quality. Two hundred years ago, however, the public and press found such music difficult to grasp.

String Upgrade

During the second half of the eighteenth century piano chamber music either was extremely easy, that is, was intended for amateurs, or involved virtuoso works in which the strings served merely to accompany the pianist's brilliant keyboard display. Mozart developed a "new style." He significantly upgraded the parts of the string instrumentalists, suddenly making them the pianist's equal partners.

Perplexed Publisher

The G minor quartet was particularly difficult for the public to digest. The stormy and richly contrastive beginning was an initial source of irritation, and then Mozart presented the foundational ideas of his composition with an intensity rare even in Beethoven. Then came the rondo with its confusing panoply of themes. The E flat major quartet made a much more favorable impression, but the publisher Hoffmeister did not find it easy to market. It had been agreed that Mozart was to write a third piano quartet, but his publisher then said he could wait on it.

Top Echelon

Within the shortest time the Mozart Piano Quintet, founded in 2000, has been catapulted to the top echelon of the international music world. This is hardly surprising inasmuch as four international soloists and finalists and first-prize winners at many international competitions form its instrumental lineup: Paul Rivinius (piano), Mark Gothoni (violin), Hartmut Rohde (viola), and Peter Hörr (violoncello). Their interest in new repertoire makes them an ideal MDG partner.

"With audible passion" (*Crescendo*);

"With enthusiastic advocacy" (*Gramophone*);

"Full of passion" (*classicrodayfrance*).

Camille Saint-Saëns: Piano Quartets
MDG 943 1519-6 (SACD)



Mel Bonis: Piano Quartets
MDG 643 1424-2



Ludwig van Beethoven

Eroica op.55 (arr. by F. Ries), Piano Quartet op.16
MDG 643 1454-2

Antonin Dvorak

Piano Quartets op. 23 and 87
MDG 643 1176-2



Richard Strauss

Piano Quartet op. 13, Ständchen, Festmarsch, Liebesliedchen, Arabischer Tanz
MDG 643 1355-2