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03/10-(6)

Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)
Piano Quintet op. 44
String Quartets op. 41, 1-3
(unabridged version)

Christian Zacharias, piano
Leipziger Streichquartett

2 CDs

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Original Versions

The original versions of Robert Schumann's string quartets have never been heard in recorded form. The Leipzig String Quartet discovered this repertoire gap and now has filled it with a fascinating recording premiere on two CDs. As an encore, the four musicians present Schumann's world-famous Piano Quintet op. 44. Their partner on the piano: Christian Zacharias.

Olympic Discipline

Schumann prepared for four years for the Olympic discipline of instrumental composition; it was only then that he felt that he was ready for his comprehensive string quartet cycle. Prior to taking up pen and paper, he repeatedly studied the works of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven and had the current compositions of his contemporaries played for him over many days. The compositional process thus turned out to be all the quicker for him. He needed only a week each for the sketches and even less time to work out the scores. The works were first performed in private on 13 September 1842 on the occasion of Clara Schumann's birthday.

Team Player

Schumann and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy were close friends. Mendelssohn's judgment was so important to Schumann that he allowed him to be one of the first to hear the quartets. His friend and confidant gave him valuable tips, and Schumann did some abbreviating and changed some details in his works, which then were also published in this revised

version. The original text also survived – which means that the Leipzig String Quartet could draw on it for this recording.

Top Lineup

Robert Schumann's Piano Quintet has brought together two great names from German chamber music to form a congenial union. Christian Zacharias has already joined forces with the Leipzig String Quartet to produce a benchmark recording of the *Trout Quintet*. His recording of Schumann's Piano Concerto certainly ranks as one of the best among the countless interpretations of this work. The best possible lineup for another dream listening experience – guaranteed!

Franz Schubert

Quintet D 667 "The Trout"
String Trio D 581
String Trio Fragment D 111A
Christian Zacharias, piano
Leipziger Streichquartett
MDG 307 0625-2



Robert Schumann

Piano Concerto op. 54
Introduction and Allegro op. 92 and op. 134
Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne
Christian Zacharias, piano and cond.
MDG 940 1033-6 (Hybrid-SACD)
MDG 340 1033-2 (CD)

