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10/11-(6)

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Piano Quartet op. 25

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
Piano Quartet op. 47

Mozart Piano Quartet

1 Hybrid-SACD **222**[®]
RECORDING

Order No.: MDG 943 1712-6

UPC-Code:



LC06768

Romantic Highlights

The Mozart Piano Quartet presents two highlights of the romantic chamber music literature as live recordings on this SACD. With the Quartet in E flat major op. 47 by Robert Schumann and the Quartet in G minor op. 25 by Johannes Brahms the musicians impressively demonstrate why it is that they have been able to play their way into the top international ranks within the shortest time. The Andante from the Quartet in C minor op. 60 by Brahms was heard as an encore during this live concert.

Maturation Process

Brahms very probably composed his G minor quartet in Detmold, where he worked concurrently on a number of works beginning in 1857. His op. 25 was first performed in Hamburg in 1861, and a year later he made his debut with it in Vienna. His friend Joseph Joachim praised in particular the last three movements of the quartet: "The second movement is so round and full of surprising modulations, the third is so tender and happy in its contrasts, the last so sparkingly characteristic!" The work was not published until 1863. During the intervening years Brahms is thought to have reworked the first movement.

Impressive Results

The quartet "makes a quite effective impression, I believe more effective than the quintet." By now thirty-two years old, Schumann had thoroughly mastered the compositional craft and also gathered

valuable experience in the combination of the piano and stringed instruments with the Piano Quintet op. 44. Clara Schumann also had the highest praise for his Piano Quartet op. 47 in her marriage journal: "I was enchanted by this beautiful work that is so youthful and fresh as if it were the first."

Audio Feast

The live recording was made under the finest acoustic circumstances in the concert hall in which MDG produces all of its chamber music recordings. The fact that the members of the most highly attentive audience were as quiet as mice makes this live recording a perfect audiophile treat: it will make you wish that you had been there – and feel as if you are there.

Camille Saint-Saens

Piano Quartets
MDG 943 1519-6 (SACD)

W. A. Mozart

Piano Quartets
MDG 943 1579-6 (SACD)

Mel Bonis

Piano Quartets
MDG 643 1424-2

