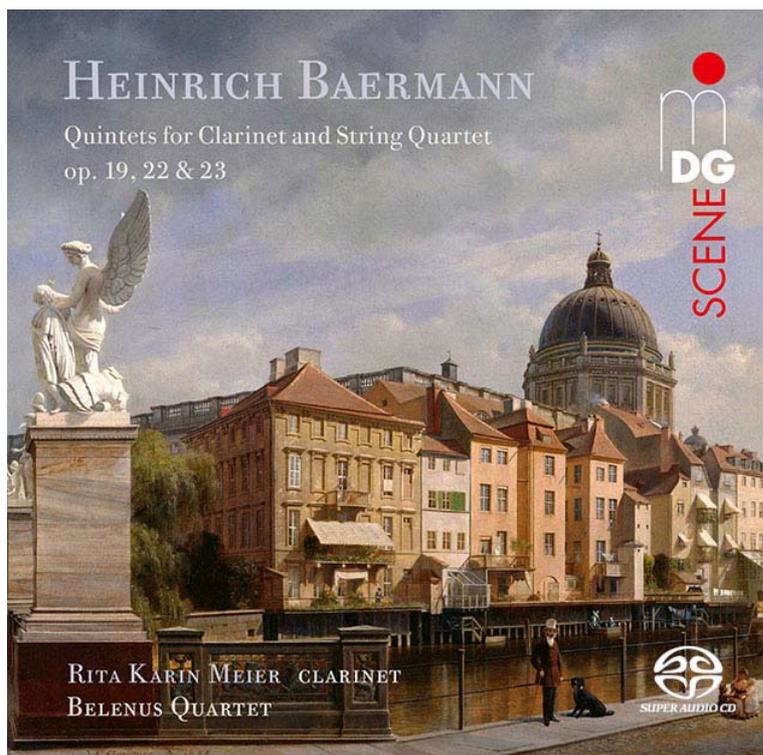


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03/17-(5)

**Heinrich Baermann**  
(1784-1847)

Clarinet Quintets op. 19, 22 & 23

Rita Karin Meier, clarinet  
Belenus Quartet

1 Hybrid-SACD

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### Clarinet Legend

Heinrich Baermann is quite well known today as Carl Maria von Weber's source of inspiration. The famous virtuoso, for whom Weber personally created his clarinet concertos, repeatedly took up the pen on his own – and did so with great success. Several dozen works by Baermann have been transmitted to us. Here Rita Karin Meier and the Belenus Quartet turn to his three quintets for clarinet and strings and with them very outstandingly bring back to life his much-acclaimed cantabile playing as well as his legendary virtuosic capabilities.

### Romantic Panoply

Especially in the Quintet in F minor op. 22 Baermann's closeness to Weber cannot be missed. The tempestuous beginning, in which the strings introduce the yearning and urgency of the Allegro non troppo, is pure romanticism from the very start. The magnificent opera scene in the second movement offers Rita Karin Meier outstanding opportunities to display her wonderfully warm tone in all sorts of different shadings. The Adagio of the Quintet op. 23, which even today is quite frequently performed, acquired unusual fame. After its rediscovery in 1922 it was initially regarded as a work by Richard Wagner – which absolutely certifies its high quality!

### Speed Demon

It hardly comes as a surprise that Baermann wrote parts of daredevil virtuosity for his instrument. Especially in his concluding movements he leaves audiences breathless with the brilliant effects of his musical fireworks. Above all the Rondo from op. 19 has what it takes. Even the ritornello with its whirring triplet chains makes the highest demands on the soloist. And then when the clarinet speeds high and low through all the registers, well, fasten your seatbelts!

### Perfect Harmony

Even though the clarinet very clearly forms the focus, Baermann includes the four stringed instruments so that genuine chamber music is the result. The Belenus Quartet is the ideal partner for this task. The young Swiss ensemble harmonizes excellently with Rita Karin Meier's clarinet playing, certainly not least also thanks to their shared experiences at the Zurich Opera. Here sound technology is synonymous with a high-resolution Super Audio CD in three dimensional reproduction and an extremely entertaining interpretation guaranteed to bring pure musical pleasure.