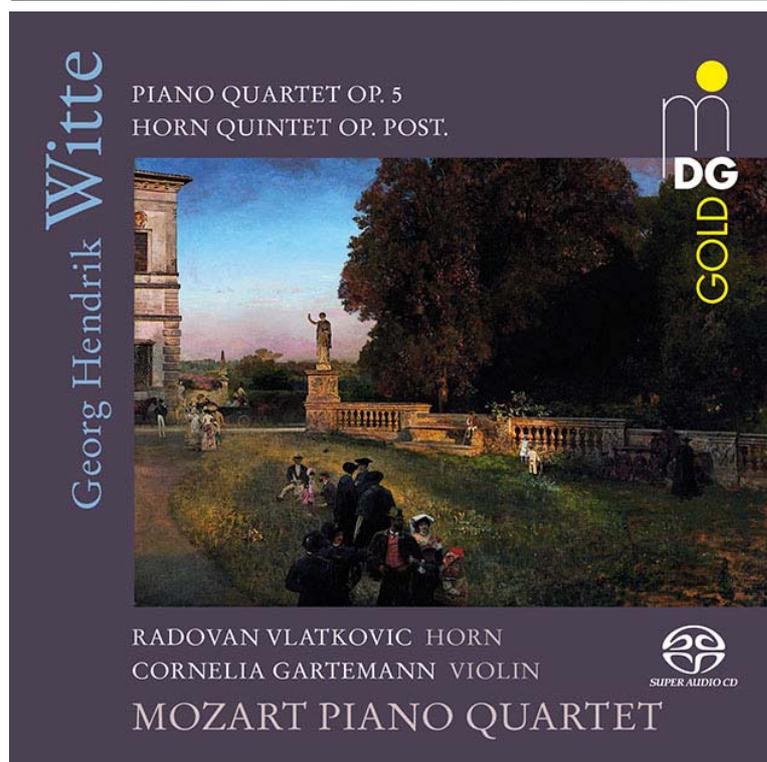


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10/17-(5)

**Georg Hendrik Witte** (1843-1929)  
Piano Quartet op. 5  
Horn Quintet

Cornelia Gartemann, violin  
Radovan Vlatkovic, horn  
Mozart Piano Quartet

1 Hybrid-SACD

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### Eventful Career

For forty years Georg Hendrik Witte influenced the course of music history in the city of Essen. Important events occurred during this productive era, and the overpowering premiere of Gustav Mahler's fateful Sixth Symphony was a special milestone. Witte's undisputed accomplishments as a conductor and orchestra manager have completely obscured his compositional oeuvre. The Mozart Piano Quartet has teamed up with friends on this recording of the composer's Piano Quartet and Horn Quintet, two chamber works from his early Leipzig period revealing to us a highly talented, evidently outstandingly educated artist determined to follow his own path in musical life.

### Quartet Distinction

"Awarded a prize by the Music Institute in Florence" is what the young Witte proudly had printed on the title page of his Piano Quartet. The distinction was not undeserved: already the beginning immediately captivates the listener. Finely balanced in the classical form – in Leipzig students were schooled on the models offered by Mendelssohn and Schumann – the work repeatedly surprises us with unexpected modulations and powerful melodies even impressing Italian adherents of the bel canto.

### Quintet Drive

The three-movement Horn Quintet has a very special appeal. Witte sent it to Johannes Brahms, with whom he had corresponded for many years. Brahms evidently did not like the bold idea to have the horn

blend tonally with the four strings over long stretches, instead of being featured in a bravura solo part. In the second movement, however, the horn drives the intensification of tempo and drama from variation to variation – in what is a marvelous listening experience!

### Ensemble Constellation

For the Horn Quintet the strings of the Mozart Piano Quartet were able to win the very best chamber partner to be found: Radovan Vlatkovic. Vlatkovic lends the frequently difficult pedal tones a movingly mellow quality repeatedly giving rise to shaping initiatives. Cornelia Gartemann is a perfect match for the ensemble, which offers an entirely new listening experience, especially when heard in the form of the three-dimensional production on this Super Audio CD.

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