



DDD

8.553782

 Playing Time  
71:41

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Living in a church tower, 193 steps above street level, was a good enough reason for the young Bohuslav Martinů to spend his evenings practising the violin. It was later to bring him a temporary living as a member of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, though his objective in life was to become a composer. An enormously prolific composer, he developed an intensely personal style, which often made use of Czech thematic material. The quite remarkable *Tři jezdci*, written by the 12-year-old Martinů, was to herald one of the outstanding string quartet composers of the 20th century. The *First Quartet* was composed while Martinů was strongly influenced by the music of Ravel and Debussy, and had yet to develop the unique tonal colours we find in the *Second Quartet*.

# Bohuslav MARTINŮ (1890–1959)

## String Quartets Vol. 1

- |   |   |              |
|---|---|--------------|
|   | <b>String Quartet No. 1 (1918)</b>          | <b>39:10</b> |
| 1 | Moderato – Allegro ma non troppo            | 8:57         |
| 2 | Andante moderato                            | 6:57         |
| 3 | Allegro non troppo                          | 10:14        |
| 4 | Allegro con brio                            | 12:53        |
|   | <b>String Quartet No. 2 (1925)</b>          | <b>20:18</b> |
| 5 | Moderato (Andante) – Allegro vivace         | 7:28         |
| 6 | Andante – Moderato                          | 6:36         |
| 7 | Allegro – Scherzando                        | 6:09         |
| 8 | <b>Tři jezdci ('Three Horsemen') (1902)</b> | <b>11:58</b> |

## Martinů Quartet

(Lubomír Havlák, Violin I • Petr Maceček, Violin II • Jan Jiša, Viola • Jitka Vlašánková, Cello)

Recorded: 23 and 25 June [1]–[4] and 18–19 February [5]–[8] 1997

at the Martinek Studio, Prague, Czech Republic

Producer and engineer: Václav Zamazal • Cover painting: *The Boulevard des Italiens* by Jean François Raffaelli  
(Galerie Daniel Malingue, Paris / Bridgeman Art Library, London)