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SPOHR: Complete String Quintets • 2

NAXOS

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One of the most versatile musicians in Europe, Louis Spohr was accepted during his lifetime as one of the most important composers of early German Romanticism. The *Quintet No. 3 in B minor* dates from his first successful years in Kassel, and stands out as one of his finest chamber works. The legend of Spohr as “soft and sentimental” does an injustice to the wide range of his music, yet this quintet displays that side of his artistic personality at its best. If the *B minor Quintet* comes from a happy period in Spohr’s life, by the time of the *Quintet No. 4 in A minor* (1833-34) the shadows had begun to close in, culminating, in November 1834, with the death of his wife. Despite Spohr’s many personal and professional difficulties, however, the *Quintet No. 4* exhibits a confident assertion of the will to face up to life’s problems, with surprisingly little of the wistful lyricism characteristic of much of his earlier music.

Louis
SPOHR
(1784-1859)

Complete String Quintets, Volume 2

Quintet No. 3 in B minor, Op. 69		31:33
1	Allegro	11:35
2	Scherzo	6:33
3	Adagio	4:27
4	Rondo allegretto	8:58
Quintet No. 4 in A minor, Op. 91		32:11
5	Allegro	11:05
6	Larghetto	5:03
7	Menuetto e Scherzo: Presto	6:19
8	Finale: Presto	9:44

New Haydn Quartet

János Horváth, Violin I • Péter Sárosi, Violin II • György Porzsolt, Viola I • Gábor Magyar, Cello
with Sándor Papp, Viola II

Recorded 17th - 20th April 1994 at the Unitarian Church, Budapest
Producer: Ibolya Tóth • Engineer: János Bohus • Booklet notes: Keith Warsop
Cover Picture: *Dresden* by Thomas Shotton Boys (1803-74)
(Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery / Bridgeman Art Library)



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Playing Time
63:44



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