

Schubert's prolific output during the thirty-one years of his life included fifteen string quartets, as well as the hundreds of songs on which his reputation as the father of German *lieder* is based. This volume spans much of Schubert's short career. The last quartet, No. 15, written towards the end of Schubert's life when his health was in decline, is a melancholic outpouring, at times elegiac, at others punctuated by bold, dramatic harmonies. In contrast, the *German Dances*, written when he was sixteen, retain a joyful simplicity and the flavour of a *Schubertiade* (a musical gathering of Schubert's friends).

Franz SCHUBERT

(1797-1828)

String Quartet No. 15 in G major, D. 887, Op. 161

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Allegro molto moderato | 45:10 |
| 2 | Andante un poco moto | 14:47 |
| 3 | Scherzo: Allegro vivace | 13:07 |
| 4 | Allegro assai | 7:03 |
| | | 10:13 |

Five German Dances with seven trios and a coda, D. 90

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|---|------------------|-------|
| 5 | No. 1 in C major | 14:26 |
| 6 | No. 2 in G major | 3:11 |
| 7 | No. 3 in D major | 3:23 |
| 8 | No. 4 in F major | 1:55 |
| 9 | No. 5 in C major | 0:53 |
| | | 5:05 |

Kodály Quartet

Antia Falvay, Violin I • Tamás Szabó, Violin II • János Fejérvári, Viola • György Éder, Cello

Recorded at the Phoenix Studio, Budapest, Hungary, on 16th April and 17th-19th June, 2002

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Cover Picture: *Avenant*: Simple, from *Tes Châts des Plus Belles Fleurs*

by Pierre Joseph Redoné (1759-1840) (Lindley Library, RHS, London, UK / Bridgeman Art Library)

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