

Playing  
Time:  
**62:23**

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**8.559628**



**Benjamin  
LEES**  
(b. 1924)

**String Quartet No. 1 (1952) 16:29**

- 1** Moderato **5:47**
- 2** Adagietto **6:21**
- 3** Allegro vivo **4:21**

**String Quartet No. 5 (2002) 26:00**

- 4** Measured **9:57**
- 5** Arioso **6:27**
- 6** Quick, quiet **1:46**
- 7** Explosive **7:50**

**String Quartet No. 6 (2005) 19:55**

- 8** Measured, dolorous **6:50**
- 9** Calm, steady **5:13**
- 10** Quiet, eerie **2:30**
- 11** Unhurried **5:22**

**Cypress String Quartet**

**Cecily Ward, Violin I • Tom Stone, Violin II**  
**Ethan Filner, Viola • Jennifer Kloetzel, Cello**

Recorded at Skywalker Sound, Marin County, California,  
USA, in May 2003 (tracks 1-3), November 2002 (tracks 4-7),  
and December 2005 (tracks 8-11)

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AMERICAN CLASSICS

The highly personal style of American composer Benjamin Lees lends his music the lofty grandeur and sardonic wit, not only of Shostakovich but also of the Cubist and Surrealist artists, all of whom he so admires. Lees, who also shares Britten's refined sense of harmony, delights in contrasts and surprises, enthralling the listener at every turn from the lyrical to the burlesque, the romantic to the brusque. His fifth string quartet was chosen by Chamber Music America as one of its 101 Great Ensemble Works.

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