

Following the release of their highly praised Naxos recording of Fauré's *Piano Quintets* (8.570938) – 'warmly expressive, their phrasing generous and intense' (*The Guardian*) – Cristina Ortiz and the Fine Arts Quartet again join forces for this recording of Franck's *Piano Quintet*, the extraordinary emotional range of which is unified by the tight thematic relationships typical of the composer's 'cyclic' structuring. His *String Quartet*, composed ten years later, is a summit of Franck's achievement, also cyclically conceived and revealing his admiration of Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Brahms.

César
FRANCK
(1822–1890)

String Quartet in D major, FWV 9 43:39

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------|
| 1 | Poco lento – Allegro | 13:46 |
| 2 | Scherzo: Vivace | 5:27 |
| 3 | Larghetto | 10:19 |
| 4 | Finale: Allegro molto | 14:02 |

Piano Quintet in F minor, FWV 7* 35:30

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-------|
| 5 | Molto moderato quasi lento | 15:36 |
| 6 | Lento, con molto sentimento | 10:20 |
| 7 | Allegro non troppo ma con fuoco | 9:30 |

Fine Arts Quartet • *Cristina Ortiz, Piano

Ralph Evans, Efim Boico, Violins • Yuri Gandelman, Viola • Wolfgang Laufer, Cello



Recorded at the Salle de musique L'heure bleue, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, 19–22 March 2008

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DDD

Playing Time
79:19



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