

DDD

Total Time 69:29

Louis
SPOHR
(1784-1859)

String Quintets (Complete) Volume 4

New Haydn Quartet^aJános Horváth, 1st Violin • Péter Sárosi, 2nd Violin • György Porzsolt, Viola • Gábor Magyar, Cello
Attila Falvay, Violin^b • Sándor Papp, 2nd Viola^c • Tamás Varga, 2nd Cello^dQuintet No. 7
in G minor (1850)^{a, c}

- 1 Allegro moderato
- 2 Larghetto
- 3 Menuetto
- 4 Finale: Allegro

Sextet

in C major (1848)^{a, c, d}

- 5 Allegro moderato
- 6 Larghetto
- 7 Scherzo: Moderato – Presto
- 8 Potpourri (1807)^{a, b}

(31:59)

12:22

5:28

6:50

7:12

(23:52)

9:45

4:43

9:20

13:30

Louis Spohr

During his lifetime, Spohr was celebrated as one of the most important composers of early German romanticism and his music embraces all the principal genres of the period. From modest beginnings as a teenage member of the court orchestra at Brunswick he went on to become one of the most famous violinists of the century and was among the great pioneers in the art of conducting (he claimed to have been the first ever to use a baton in the direction of an orchestra). Despite numerous concert tours, he found time to teach more than 200 violinists, composers and conductors.

The Music

Spohr was in many ways a transitional figure, linking the formal disciplines of the Classical age of Mozart and Haydn with the highly coloured and emotional music of the romantic era (though he was later regarded as rather old-fashioned by such full-blown romantics as Wagner, Tchaikovsky, Richard Strauss and their followers). Fittingly, his chamber music reflects the more intimate, warm and lyrical aspects of a composer better known in his lifetime as a master of the orchestra. Sounding at times like an amalgam of Boccherini, Beethoven and Mendelssohn, it is now being rediscovered by music-lovers the world over – a renaissance of interest for which Marco Polo is proud to take part of the credit.

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