A great violinist in his own right, Louis Spohr was accepted during his lifetime as one of the most important violinist-composers of early German Romanticism. His quartets, which span more than fifty years of his creative career, combine technical brilliance with loftier musical aims. Written at a particularly trying and eventful time in Spohr's life, *No. 33* includes an intensely felt *Adagio molto*, one of the finest slow movements in the whole of his output. *No. 35* realised Spohr's aim to compose a quartet which returned to the classical ideals of Haydn and Mozart, while retaining many features of his own individual style. The *Potpourri in G major* was the twenty-year-old composer's first work for string quartet, written when Spohr was just setting out to make his name as a violin virtuoso.

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WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

Louis
SPOHR
(1784-1859)

String Quartet No. 33 in G major, Op. 146		**32:43**
1	**I. Allegro**	**9:32**
2	**II. Adagio molto**	**7:03**
3	**III. Scherzo: Presto**	**5:28**
4	**IV. Finale: Molto allegro**	**10:40**
	String Quartet No. 35 in E flat major, Op. 155	**21:50**
5	**I. Allegro**	**6:30**
6	**II. Romanze: Andantino**	**4:58**
7	**III. Menuetto: Moderato**	**3:23**
8	**IV. Finale: Allegro non troppo**	**6:58**
9	**Potpourri No. 1 in G major on Themes from Gaveaux's** *Le petit matelot*, **Op. 5 (Grave – Allegretto – Poco adagio – Tempo di menuetto – Più lento – Allegretto)**	**15:09**

Dima Quartet, Moscow

Sergey Girshenko and Alexey Gulianitsky, Violins
Georgy Kapitonov, Viola • Dmitry Yablonsky, Cello

Recorded in Studio No. 1 of the State Radio House, Moscow, from 25th November, 2005 to 9th January, 2006
Producer: Lubov Doronina • Engineers: Vladimir Samoilov, Andrey Volovikov
Editor: Dmitry Missailov • Booklet notes: Clive Brown and Keith Warsop • Publisher: Merton Music
Cover image: *The Court Theatre in Kassel* by Joh. Poppel c. 1850 (Private Collection)