

Beethoven's final string quartets are of such originality that throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth century they were considered to be exceptionally challenging. In these works Beethoven leaves far behind the commonly accepted compositional conventions of his time. Op.135 is the last substantial work Beethoven finished. It is smaller in scope and lighter in character than the other late quartets, yet its slow movement has great emotional penetration. Beethoven composed Op. 131 in 1826 and appears to have thought it his finest. Certainly nothing could surpass its depth, scope and originality.

Ludwig van
BEETHOVEN
(1770-1827)

String Quartets Vol. 9

	String Quartet in F major, Op. 135	22:57
1	Allegretto	6:01
2	Vivace	3:14
3	Lento assai, cantante e tranquillo	6:39
4	Grave ma non troppo tratto - Allegro	7:03
	String Quartet in C sharp minor, Op.131	40:00
5	Adagio ma non troppo e molto espressivo	8:01
6	Allegro molto vivace	3:00
7	Allegro moderato	0:50
8	Andante ma non troppo e molto cantabile	13:43
9	Presto	5:19
10	Adagio quasi un poco andante	2:02
11	Allegro	7:06

Kodály Quartet

Attila Falvay and Tamás Szabó, violins • Gábor Fias, viola • György Éder, cello

Recorded at the Phoenix Studio, Budapest, Hungary from 26th to 29th April, 1999

Producer: Ibolya Tóth • Engineer: János Bohus

Cover Painting: *View of Salzburg from Gaisberg*, 1817, by Julius Schoppe (AKG, London)

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Playing Time

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