

Brahms was an accomplished pianist, whose output for the piano spanned his entire life. In addition to his solo works he made four-hand piano arrangements of many of his orchestral and vocal scores, to give them greater accessibility. This also extended to chamber music repertoire, as evidenced here by the piano arrangements of his first two *String Quartets*, Op. 51. These two works represent years of experimentation with writing for string quartet, Brahms having reportedly destroyed earlier attempts at mastering this demanding musical form. The original *String Quartets*, Op. 51 are available on Naxos 8.554271.

Johannes  
**BRAHMS**  
(1833-1897)

**Four Hand Piano Music • 10**

**String Quartet in C minor, Op. 51, No. 1** 32:45  
arranged for piano, 4 hands

1	Allegro	9:57
2	Romanze: Poco adagio	8:36
3	Allegretto molto moderato e comodo	9:02
4	Allegro	5:10

**String Quartet in A minor, Op. 51, No. 2** 36:17  
arranged for piano, 4 hands

5	Allegro non troppo	12:39
6	Andante moderato	10:36
7	Quasi Minuetto, moderato	5:57
8	Finale: Allegro non assai	7:05

**Silke-Thora Matthies • Christian Köhn**

Recorded at the Clara-Wieck-Auditorium, Sandhausen, Germany, from 7th - 9th August 1997

Producer: Teije van Geest • Booklet Note: Keith Anderson

Cover Image: *Ruins in the Riesengebirge*, 1830-34, by Caspar David Friedrich (1774-1840)  
(Stadtmuseum, Greifswald, Germany / Bridgeman Art Library / Bildarchiv Steffens)

**NAXOS**

**DDD**

8.557056

Playing Time  
69:02



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