



DDD

8.557543-44

 Playing Time
 2:34:23

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The string quartets of Béla Bartók occupy a central position in the classical repertoire of the twentieth century. Not only are they a milestone in the evolution of the quartet literature, but – along with those by Haydn and Beethoven – they provide an overview of their composer's output at all the main junctures of his career. The *First Quartet* is a convincing amalgam of influences, notably Strauss and Debussy, the *Second Quartet* more introspective, while the *Third* and *Fourth Quartets* contain the most 'difficult' music of the six. The *Fifth* is the most approachable, while the *Sixth* is permeated by a sense of dread and resignation at the approach of World War Two. These masterpieces truly offer the range and depth of a lifetime's creative experience.

Béla
BARTÓK
 (1881-1945)

The Complete String Quartets

CD 1 75:49

1-3 String Quartet No. 1, Op. 7 (1908-1909) 29:24

4-6 String Quartet No. 3 (1927) 15:17

7-11 String Quartet No. 5 (1934) 31:09

CD 2 78:34

1-3 String Quartet No. 2, Op. 17 (1915-1917) 26:19

4-8 String Quartet No. 4 (1928) 23:08

9-12 String Quartet No. 6 (1939) 29:06

Vermeer Quartet

Shmuel Ashkenasi, Violin 1 • Mathias Tacke, Violin 2
 Richard Young, Viola • Marc Johnson, Cello

Recorded at St John Chrysostom Church, Newmarket, Ontario, Canada,
 from May 24th to 27th, 2001, February 10th to 12th, 2003, and February 8th to 11th, 2004
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