

Playing
Time:
50:19

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8.559178



**Charles
IVES**
(1874-1954)

String Quartets

String Quartet No. 1: From the Salvation Army (1896)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 Chorale (Andante con moto) | 21:46 |
| 2 Prelude (Allegro) | 5:02 |
| 3 Offertory (Adagio cantabile) | 5:54 |
| 4 Postlude (Allegro marziale) | 5:35 |
| 5 Scherzo (ca. 1907-14) | 5:16 |
| 6 Discussions (ca. 1907-14) | 1:42 |

String Quartet No. 2 (1911-13)

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 7 Discussions (Andante moderato – Andante con spirito – Adagio molto) | 26:59 |
| 8 Arguments (Allegro con spirito) | 10:08 |
| 9 The Call of the Mountains (Adagio – Andante – Adagio) | 4:53 |
| | 11:49 |

Blair String Quartet

Recorded at Ingram Hall, Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, on 5th, 6th and 8th March, 2004.

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AMERICAN CLASSICS

Charles Ives, a New Englander by birth and character, began composing at the age of eleven, although after deciding that he would never make a living with his music he pursued a successful career in insurance. He was trained by his father George, a bandleader, who encouraged him to experiment with the unconventional techniques that were to become his signature, such as polytonality, microtones and spatial performance. Ives's two string quartets are as unlike in origin as they are in content. The *First Quartet* uses his beloved revival and gospel hymns as musical sources, and its energy and originality provide an early example of Ives's highly original creative powers. The highly complex *Second String Quartet* was born of a typical Ives rage against what he perceived as the effeminacy of standard string quartet performances. Ives himself summarised the work's programme as: 'four men – who converse, discuss, argue ... fight, shake hands, shut up – then walk up the mountainside to view the firmament'.

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