



With their often turbulent and dark-hued openings, poignant slow movements, elfin *Scherzos* reminiscent of the music for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and tense, thrilling last movements of perpetual motion, Mendelssohn's *String Quartets* are works of considerable emotional range and mastery of form. This first disc of the complete String Quartets ranges from the youthful *No. 1, Op. 12* (actually the second of the published quartets) to the great, tragic *String Quartet No. 6, Op. 80*, Mendelssohn's last major work, composed after the death of his sister.

Felix
MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY
 (1809-1847)

String Quartets • 1

String Quartet No. 6 in F minor, Op. 80	25:38
1 Allegro vivace assai	7:26
2 Allegro assai	4:27
3 Adagio	8:08
4 Finale: Allegro molto	5:37
String Quartet No. 1 in E flat major, Op. 12	24:19
5 Adagio non troppo – Allegro non tardante	7:39
6 Canzonetta: Allegretto – Più mosso	4:11
7 Andante espressivo	4:29
8 Molto allegro e vivace	8:00
String Quartet No. 4 in E minor, Op. 44, No. 2	27:55
9 Allegro assai appassionato	10:48
10 Scherzo: Allegro di molto	3:52
11 Andante	6:16
12 Presto agitato	6:59

New Zealand String Quartet
 Helene Pohl, Violin I • Douglas Beilman, Violin II
 Gillian Ansell, Viola • Rolf Gjelsten, Cello

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