

Alan Rawsthorne's three published String Quartets mark the progression of style and language at salient points during his compositional career. *String Quartet No. 1* is an early example of Rawsthorne's partiality for variation form. *String Quartet No. 2* is more succinct and precise in expression and form, while the many-layered *String Quartet No. 3*, an austere work of unremitting intensity, is characteristic of the final period of Rawsthorne's creative output.

Alan RAWSTHORNE

(1905-1971)

String Quartets • Theme and Variations for Two Violins

Theme and Variations for Two Violins (1937)

1	Theme (Allegro)	0:46
2	Variation 1: Capriccietto	0:48
3	Variation 2: Siciliano	2:04
4	Variation 3: Cancrizzante	0:53
5	Variation 4: Rhapsodia	2:34
6	Variation 5: Notturno	3:16
7	Variation 6: Scherzetto	0:39
8	Variation 7: Ostinato	1:10
9	Variation 8: Canone	0:30
10	Variation 9: Fantasia	2:49

String Quartet No. 1 (Theme and Variations) (1939) 10:01

11	Theme: Tempo giusto, espressivo e poco agitato	1:00
12	Variation 1: L'istesso tempo	0:43
13	Variation 2: Andante appassionato	1:40

14	Variation 3: Allegro	1:15
15	Variation 4: Adagio, poco misterioso	2:38
16	Variation 5: Allegro preciso	1:06
17	Variation 6: Prestissimo	1:38
String Quartet No. 2 (1954) 17:37		
18	Maestoso e pesante – Allegretto – Allegro agitato	4:10
19	Allegro appassionato sempre molto rubato	4:16
20	Allegretto	3:29
21	Theme, Three Variations and Coda	5:41

String Quartet No. 3 (1965) 17:02

22	Allegro deciso – Allegretto – Allegro deciso –	7:41
23	Andante (Alla ciacona)	5:38
24	Molto vivace	3:43

Maggini Quartet

This recording was made with generous support from the Rawsthorne Trust

Recorded at Potton Hall, Suffolk, from 13th to 15th December, 2005

Producer: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.) • Engineer: Eleanor Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.)

Booklet Notes: John Belcher and Alan Rawsthorne

Cover image: *Violin Close Up* by Dragan Trifunovic (dreamstime.com)



8.570136

DDD

Playing Time
60:09



© 2006
Naxos Rights International Ltd.
Booklet notes in English • Kommentar auf Deutsch

Made in the UK • MCPS
www.naxos.com