

Following the so-called 'Year of Song' (1840) during which Schumann poured out almost 140 of his finest *Lieder*, the newly-married composer turned to weightier forms. In 1842 Schumann composed the Three *String Quartets Op. 41*, the *Piano Quintet Op. 44* and the *Piano Quartet Op. 47*, a veritable 'Year of Chamber Music'. Influenced by the late quartets of Beethoven and the quartets of Haydn and Mozart, Schumann's string quartets are masterpieces in their own right, filled with musical inventiveness, youthful exuberance and intense poetic feeling.

Robert  
**SCHUMANN**  
(1810-1856)

- |    |   |              |
|----|---|--------------|
|    | <b>String Quartet in A minor, Op. 41, No. 1</b> | <b>25:56</b> |
| 1  | Introduzione: Andante espressivo – Allegro      | 9:38         |
| 2  | Scherzo: Presto – Intermezzo                    | 3:49         |
| 3  | Adagio  | 5:51         |
| 4  | Presto  | 6:38         |
|    | <b>String Quartet in F major, Op. 41, No. 2</b> | <b>21:06</b> |
| 5  | Allegro vivace                                  | 4:48         |
| 6  | Andante quasi Variazioni                        | 8:31         |
| 7  | Scherzo: Presto                                 | 3:10         |
| 8  | Allegro molto vivace                            | 4:38         |
|    | <b>String Quartet in A major, Op. 41, No. 3</b> | <b>32:03</b> |
| 9  | Andante espressivo – Allegro molto moderato     | 8:13         |
| 10 | Assai agitato – Un poco adagio – Tempo risoluto | 7:12         |
| 11 | Adagio molto                                    | 8:57         |
| 12 | Allegro molto vivace                            | 7:41         |

**Fine Arts Quartet**

Ralph Evans, Violin • Efim Boico, Violin  
Yuri Gandelsman, Viola • Wolfgang Laufer, Cello

Recorded at the Library of Wittem Monastery (Klooster Wittem), Netherlands,  
on 11th and 13th to 15th February, 2006  
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Playing Time  
79:05



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