

A pupil of Beethoven in Vienna, Ferdinand Ries enjoyed a successful career as a performer and as a composer. After a period in England, he finally retired to his native Rhineland where he wrote his *Flute Quartets*. Written in an early Romantic style, the Quartets are notable for their diversity, the first with a Spanish finale, the second more sombre in tone, and the third providing a bright conclusion, as though it were designed to cap an evening of music-making. Quotations or near quotations from works by other composers of the period give the Quartets a humorous and unusual unpredictability.

## Ferdinand RIES

(1784-1838)

### Flute Quartets, Op. 145

#### Flute Quartet in C major,

#### Op. 145, No. 1 17:37

- ① I. Allegro con brio 4:08
- ② II. Larghetto cantabile 5:11
- ③ III. Scherzo and Trio:  
Allegro vivace 4:17
- ④ IV. Finale:  
Allegro all'espagnola 4:02

#### Flute Quartet in E minor,

#### Op. 145, No. 2 19:22

- ⑤ I. Allegro moderato 4:31
- ⑥ II. Andante 6:16

#### ⑦ III. Menuetto and Trio:

Molto moderato 3:31

#### ⑧ IV. Rondo: Allegro moderato 5:05

#### Flute Quartet in A major, Op. 145, No. 3 19:34

⑨ I. Allegro 5:19

⑩ II. Scherzo and Trio:  
Vivace – Più lento 3:39

⑪ III. Adagio 5:18

⑫ IV. Allegro (cadenza by  
J. H. Littlefield) 5:18

**John Herrick Littlefield, Flute • Aaron Boyd, Violin  
Ah Ling Neu, Viola • Yari Bond, Cello**

Recorded at the Sacred Heart Chapel of the Dominican Convent, Sparkill, New York,  
on June 17th and 18th, 2006

Producer: Karen Littlefield • Engineer and editor: John Hunter • Booklet notes: John Herrick Littlefield  
Cover image: *The Church of Johannes at the influx of the Lahn, engraved by T. Sutherland, from 'A Picturesque Tour along the Rhine, from Mentz to Cologne', after Christian Georg Schutz II (1718-1823)*  
(Private Collection, The Stapleton Collection / The Bridgeman Art Library)



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Playing Time  
56:33



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