

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
- 2 II. Larghetto cantabile
- 3 III. Scherzo and Trio:
Allegro vivace
- 4 IV. Finale:
Allegro all'espagnola

**Flute Quartet in E minor,
Op. 145, No. 2**

19:22

- 5 I. Allegro moderato
- 6 II. Andante

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 Schütz II (1718-1823)
(Private Collection, The Stapleton Collection / The Bridgeman Art Library)



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Playing Time
56:33

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