



8.570488

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Playing Time
70:23

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Mendelssohn's musical precocity, both as a player and as a performer, manifested itself at a remarkably early age. In 1826, when he was only 17, Mendelssohn wrote not only his *Overture to A Midsummer Night's Dream* but the first of his two string quintets. The *String Quintet No. 2* followed 19 years later, in 1845, two years before his death. Despite the intervening years, the two *Quintets* are similar in style and form, with richly melodic and haunting slow movements and two wonderfully contrasting scherzos. It is interesting to compare the two *String Quintets* with the impressive *Octet* of 1825 (recorded on Naxos 8.557270).

Felix
MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY
(1809-1847)

String Quintets Nos. 1 and 2

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| String Quintet No. 2 in B flat major, Op. 87 | 31:57 |
| 1 I. Allegro vivace | 10:37 |
| 2 II. Andante scherzando | 4:32 |
| 3 III. Adagio e lento | 10:40 |
| 4 IV. Allegro molto vivace | 6:08 |
| String Quintet No. 1 in A major, Op. 18 | 33:02 |
| 5 I. Allegro con moto | 12:51 |
| 6 II. Intermezzo: Andante sostenuto | 9:12 |
| 7 III. Scherzo: Allegro di molto | 4:38 |
| 8 IV. Allegro vivace | 6:21 |
| String Quintet No. 1 in A major, Op. 18 | 5:26 |
| 9 III. Minuetto (original third movement, replaced by II: Intermezzo) | 5:26 |

Fine Arts Quartet
Ralph Evans, Violin • Efim Boico, Violin
Yuri Gandelsman, Viola • Wolfgang Laufer, Cello
Danilo Rossi, Viola

Recorded at Il Bagno in Steinfurt, Germany, 21-24 March 2007
Producer, Engineer and Editor: Florian B. Schmidt • Booklet notes: Keith Anderson
Cover photo: Mountain reflections in a lake (Paul Merrett / Dreamstime.com)

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