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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**

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  
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