

Michael Tippett, who was 'invincibly drawn to the quartet medium' when he heard performances by the Busch and Léner Quartets during his student years in London, wrote five string quartets spanning his entire compositional life. On this first disc of the complete Quartets, the tuneful *String Quartet No. 1* is followed by the *String Quartet No. 2*, notable for its abundant lyricism and lithe, dancing rhythms. In sharp contrast to both these works stands the more dissonant *String Quartet No. 4*, an unbroken sequence of numbered movements, which reflect the *String Quartet Op. 131* of Tippett's compositional hero, Beethoven.

Sir Michael
TIPPETT
(1905-1998)

String Quartets • 1

String Quartet No. 1 in A major (1934-35, rev. 1943)

| | | |
|---|----------------------|-------|
| 1 | Allegro appassionato | 18:49 |
| 2 | Lento cantabile – | 6:58 |
| 3 | Allegro assai | 6:43 |

String Quartet No. 2 in F sharp major (1941-42)

| | | |
|---|----------------------|-------|
| 4 | Allegro grazioso | 19:55 |
| 5 | Andante | 6:28 |
| 6 | Presto | 4:43 |
| 7 | Allegro appassionato | 3:13 |
| | | 5:32 |

String Quartet No. 4 (1977-78)

| | | |
|----|-------------------|-------|
| 8 | Molto legato – | 25:53 |
| 9 | Fast – | 3:09 |
| 10 | Moderately slow – | 6:24 |
| 11 | Very fast | 6:21 |
| | | 9:58 |

The Tippett Quartet

John Mills, Violin I • Jeremy Isaac, Violin II
Maxine Moore, Viola • Bozidar Vukotic, Cello

Recorded at St Silas the Martyr, Kentish Town, London, from 12th to 14th November, 2007

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Playing Time
64:37



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