

From the pen of the fifteen-year-old Beethoven, these three piano quartets are among the earliest examples of a chamber music genre that would not reach full maturity until the time of Brahms. Beethoven's path-breaking essays stand beside those of Mozart (Naxos 8.554274), also dating from the mid-1780s. In them the teenage composer and virtuoso pianist exuberantly explores the relationship between the strings and piano, and would later borrow from them for his *Piano Sonatas*, *Op. 2* (8.550150). With this recording the New Zealand Piano Quartet makes its Naxos début.

Ludwig van
BEETHOVEN

(1770-1827)

Piano Quartets, WoO 36

Piano Quartet in C major, WoO 36, No. 3	16:54
1 Allegro vivace	6:41
2 Adagio con espressione	6:32
3 Rondo: Allegro	3:41
Piano Quartet in E flat major, WoO 36, No. 1	24:05
4 Adagio assai	7:10
5 Allegro con spirito	5:50
6 Theme and Variations: Cantabile	11:05
Piano Quartet in D major, WoO 36, No. 2	23:14
7 Allegro moderato	8:00
8 Andante con moto	9:34
9 Rondo: Allegro	5:40

New Zealand Piano Quartet

Richard Mapp, Piano • Yury Gezentsvey, Violin
Donald Maurice, Viola • David Chickering, Cello

Recorded at the Illott Concert Room, Wellington Town Hall, Wellington, New Zealand
from 4th to 5th December, 2005 • Producer and Editor: Wayne Laird • Engineer: Paul McGlashan
Booklet notes: Keith Anderson • Cover Photograph: *Beethoven House, Bonn*
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Playing Time
64:13



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