

Robert Still's four string quartets vividly encapsulate his compositional career. The first two, of which *No. 1* was first performed in 1948, display an early inclination towards folk-song and pre-classical models, while *Nos. 3* and *4*, written during the 1960s "without key", reflect his later change towards a continental European-influenced method of composition that can be summed up by the abandonment of writing in a tonal style. These world première recordings owe a considerable debt to the editorial expertise of James Dickenson, leader of the Villiers Quartet, who prepared the performance material from the original scores.



String Quartet No. 1

- 1 I. Adagio/Allegretto Seriouso
- 2 II. Allegretto Giocondo
- 3 III. Tempo di Marcia
quasi Passacaglia

String Quartet No. 2

- 4 I. Allegro risoluto
- 5 II. Molto adagio Molto legato
- 6 III. Allegro vivo

Robert
STILL
(1910-1971)

16:39	String Quartet No. 3	22:22
8:40	7 I. Allegro marcato	6:17
3:23	8 II. Adagio sostenuto	6:37
4:36	9 III. Allegro Pressante	2:55
	10 IV. Tempo di Marcia	6:33
17:58	String Quartet No. 4	19:25
4:41	11 I. Allegro agitato	3:58
9:17	12 II. Poco lento	5:19
4:00	13 III. Tempo di Marcia	3:30
	14 IV. Angoscioso	6:38

WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDINGS

Villiers Quartet

James Dickenson, Violin I • Tamaki Higashi, Violin II
Carmen Flores, Viola • Nicholas Stringfellow, Cello

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The tempo markings reproduced in the track lists are exactly as written by the composer.

Recorded at The Church Of St Silas the Martyr, London, UK,
on 20th and 21st January, 2014 (tracks 1-6), and on 18th and 19th July, 2013 (tracks 7-14)

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DDD

8.571353

Playing Time
76:24



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