

Alexander Zemlinsky's four numbered string quartets span some four decades, moving from the conservatism of his Brahms-inspired youth to the experimental works of his mature years. Written just after the *Lyric Symphony* (Naxos 8.572048), the *Third Quartet* is constructed in a cool, austere language far removed from the emotional, expressionistic atmosphere of the *Second Quartet*. The *Fourth Quartet*, written in memory of Alban Berg, is a fitting conclusion to an important body of work bridging the Romantic world of the nineteenth century to the modern age of the twentieth. *Quartets Nos. 1* and 2 will follow on Naxos 8.573088.

Alexander
ZEMMLINSKY
(1871-1942)

String Quartets • 1

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| | String Quartet No. 3, Op. 19 (1924) | 24:10 |
| 1 | I. Allegretto: Gemächlich, innig bewegt | 8:33 |
| 2 | II. Thema mit Variationen. Geheimnisvoll bewegt, nicht zu schnell – Variationen I-VII | 5:47 |
| 3 | III. Romanze: Sehr mässige Achtel, Andante sostenuto | 4:28 |
| 4 | IV. Burleske: Sehr lebhaft, Allegro moderato | 5:22 |
| | String Quartet No. 4 'Suite', Op. 25 (1936) | 25:21 |
| 5 | I. Präludium: Poco adagio | 3:37 |
| 6 | II. Burleske: Vivace | 5:10 |
| 7 | III. Adagietto: Adagio | 3:13 |
| 8 | IV. Intermezzo: Allegretto | 4:25 |
| 9 | V. Barcarole (Thema mit Variationen): Poco adagio | 5:42 |
| 10 | VI. Finale – Doppelfuge: Allegro molto energico | 3:14 |
| | Zwei Sätze (1927) | 15:29 |
| 11 | No. 1. Introduction: Andante con moto – Vivace | 7:07 |
| 12 | No. 2. Adagio, misterioso – Tempo di minuet | 8:22 |

Escher String Quartet

Adam Barnett-Hart, Violin I • Wu Jie, Violin II
Pierre Lapointe, Viola • Dane Johansen, Cello

Recorded at Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, Florida, USA, from 21st-25th February, 2011

Producers: Norbert Kraft and Bonnie Silver • Engineer and editor: Norbert Kraft

Publisher: Universal Edition (tracks 1-10); G. Ricordi & Co., München/Universal Music Publishing (tracks 11-12)

Booklet notes: Marc D. Moskovitz • Cover photograph by Judy Watt (iStockphoto.com)



DDD

8.572813

Playing Time
65:00



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Booklet notes in English
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