



DDD

8.573088

 Playing Time  
 74:54


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Booklet notes in English

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By 1896, at the age of twenty-five, Alexander Zemlinsky was one of the rising stars in the Viennese musical firmament. His first opera had been written, he had won a number of awards, and he had earned the support of Johannes Brahms. In July of the same year he began writing his *First String Quartet*, a work of sweeping lyricism, rich dance patterns, and self-confidence, couched within the bounds of a relatively conventional palette. Seventeen years later he began his *Second String Quartet*. Kaleidoscopic in effect, mood, and technical demands, and redolent of the music of the new century – led by his brother-in-law Arnold Schoenberg – it was to place Zemlinsky securely in the European avant-garde.

Alexander  
**ZEMLINSKY**  
 (1871-1942)  
 String Quartets • 2

**String Quartet No. 1 in A Major, Op. 4 (1896) 31:55**

- |   |                        |       |
|---|------------------------|-------|
| 1 | I. Allegro con fuoco   | 12:06 |
| 2 | II. Allegretto         | 4:25  |
| 3 | III. Breit und kräftig | 8:01  |
| 4 | IV. Vivace e con fuoco | 7:23  |

**String Quartet No. 2, Op. 15 (1913) 42:59**

- |   |                                |       |
|---|--------------------------------|-------|
| 5 | I. Sehr mässig (quasi andante) | 12:09 |
| 6 | II. Adagio                     | 8:22  |
| 7 | III. Schnell                   | 6:05  |
| 8 | IV. Andante                    | 10:10 |
| 9 | V. Langsam                     | 6:13  |

**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 9th to 12th May, 2012

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

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