

The tapestry of drama, refinement and expressive lyricism in Dag Wirén's four string quartets (the *First Quartet* was withdrawn) provides a substantial overview of his musical evolution over 35 years. His earlier works are more accessible than challenging, as demonstrated by the relaxed and affirmative *Second* and *Third Quartets*. The *Fourth Quartet* is more sombre, with nods towards Sibelius and Shostakovich, and in the *Fifth*, completed not long before Wirén's retirement as a composer, the easy confidence of the earlier quartets has been replaced by a mood of pessimism and uncertainty.



Dag
WIRÉN
(1905–1986)

String Quartets Nos. 2–5

1–3	String Quartet No. 2, Op. 9 (1935)	18:50
4–7	String Quartet No. 3, Op. 18 (1945)	19:27
8–12	String Quartet No. 4, Op. 28 (1953)	18:44
13–15	String Quartet No. 5, Op. 41 (1970)	13:08

Wirén Quartet

Roger Olsson, Violin I • Hans Elvkull, Violin II
Linn Elvkull, Viola • Hanna Thorell, Cello

Recorded: 13–16 December 2016 at Hardemo Church, Örebro, Sweden
Producer, engineer and editor: Sean Lewis • Booklet notes: Richard Whitehouse

A detailed track list can be found inside the booklet.

Instruments: Violin I: Luigi Ercoli 2011, Violin II: Joseph Kantscher 1984,

Viola: Joseph Kantscher 1985, Cello: Caressa & Francais 1920 • Tuning: A=442 Hz.

Publishers: Nordiska Musikförlaget (1–7), Carl Germans Musikförlag, Stockholm (8–15)

Thanks to the Dag Wirén Foundation and the Sten Frykberg Memory Fund for financial support.

Cover photograph by Martin Wahlborg (iStockphoto.com)



8.573588

DDD

Playing Time
70:36



© & © 2018 Naxos Rights US, Inc.
Booklet notes in English
Made in Germany

www.naxos.com