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Playing Time
70:19

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The string quartets of Beethoven are among the greatest works of their kind, but he composed other works for quartet which have been neglected. This album is dedicated to these intriguing rarities. Aside the wild and monumental *Grosse Fuge*, in many ways the culmination of Beethoven's achievements in the string quartet genre, this recording further displays his mastery of counterpoint by bringing to light brilliant yet forgotten original versions of his quartets *Op. 18, No. 1* and *Op. 131*, plus six virtually unknown miniatures, including his *Preludes and Fugues*.

Ludwig van BEETHOVEN

(1770–1827)

Fugues and Rarities for String Quartet

String Quartet in F major, Hess 32
(1st version of String Quartet No. 1,
Op. 18, No. 1) (1799) **30:30**

- 1 I. Allegro con brio 10:19
- 2 II. Adagio molto 9:32
- 3 III. Scherzo: Allegro 3:46
- 4 IV. Allegretto 6:46

5 String Quartet No. 14 in C sharp
minor, *Op. 131: I. Adagio espressivo*
(early version) (1826) **6:04**

6 Prelude and Fugue in F major,
Hess 30 (1795) **6:28**

7 Allegretto in B minor,
WoO 210 (1817) **0:34**

8 Prelude and Fugue in C major,
Hess 31 (1795) **4:44**

9 Fugue in D minor,
Hess 245 (fragment) (c. 1795) **0:40**

10 George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)
Solomon, HWV 67, Part I – Overture:
Fugue (arr. Beethoven for string
quartet, Hess 36) (1794–95) **2:11**

Ludwig van Beethoven
11 Menuett in A flat major, WoO 209,
Hess 33 (c. 1790) **2:05**

12 Grosse Fuge in B flat major,
Op. 133 (1825) **16:42**

Fine Arts Quartet

Ralph Evans, Violin I • Efim Boico, Violin II
Gil Sharon, Viola • Niklas Schmidt, Cello

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