

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. Alongside 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, <i>Op. 18, No. 1</i>) (1799)	30:30	⑧	Prelude and Fugue in C major, Hess 31 (1795)	4:44
① I. Allegro con brio	10:19	⑨	Fugue in D minor, Hess 245 (fragment) (c. 1795)	0:40
② II. Adagio molto	9:32	George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)		
③ III. Scherzo: Allegro	3:46	⑩	Solomon, HWV 67, Part I – Overture: Fugue (arr. Beethoven for string quartet, Hess 36) (1794–95)	2:11
④ IV. Allegretto	6:46	Ludwig van Beethoven		
⑤ String Quartet No. 14 in C sharp minor, Op. 131: I. Adagio espressivo (early version) (1826)	6:04	⑪	Menuett in A flat major, WoO 209, Hess 33 (c. 1790)	2:05
⑥ Prelude and Fugue in F major, Hess 30 (1795)	6:28	⑫	Grosse Fuge in B flat major, <i>Op. 133</i> (1825)	16:42
⑦ Allegretto in B minor, WoO 210 (1817)	0:34			

Fine Arts Quartet

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

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Playing Time
70:19



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