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Playing Time  
48:14

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Janáček's final decade saw an almost unprecedented creative renewal during which he wrote some of his greatest works. Among them were his chamber music masterpieces, the two *String Quartets*. The first was inspired by Tolstoy's novella *The Kreutzer Sonata*, a torrid tale of adultery and murder to which Janáček responded with music of increasingly frenzied passion. The second was subtitled *Intimate Letters*, a freely evolving work full of yearning and amorous defiance. Originally cast for four violins, the two youthful *Sonnets* date from 1875 and balance the archaisms of the first with the lyricism of the second.

Leoš  
**JANÁČEK**  
(1854–1928)

- String Quartet No. 1, JW VII/8 'Kreutzer Sonata' (1923) 17:36**
- |   |                                       |      |   |                     |      |
|---|---------------------------------------|------|---|---------------------|------|
| 1 | <b>I. Adagio – Con moto</b>           | 4:02 | 2 | <b>II. Con moto</b> | 4:17 |
| 3 | <b>III. Con moto – Vivo – Andante</b> | 4:02 | 4 | <b>IV. Con moto</b> | 5:13 |
- String Quartet No. 2, JW VII/13 'Listy důvěrné' ('Intimate Letters') (1928) 25:39**
- |   |                      |      |   |                    |      |
|---|----------------------|------|---|--------------------|------|
| 5 | <b>I. Andante</b>    | 5:57 | 6 | <b>II. Adagio</b>  | 5:53 |
| 7 | <b>III. Moderato</b> | 5:32 | 8 | <b>IV. Allegro</b> | 8:14 |
- 9 **Znělka ('Sonnet') in D minor, JW VII/2**  
(arr. Rolf Gjelsten, b. 1955, for string quartet) (1875)\* **2:27**
- 10 **Znělka ('Sonnet') in A major, JW VII/1**  
(arr. Rolf Gjelsten for string quartet) (1875)\* **2:22**

\*WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

**New Zealand String Quartet**

**Helene Pohl, Violin I • Monique Lapins, Violin II**  
**Gillian Ansell, Viola • Rolf Gjelsten, Cello**

Recorded: 29–31 July 2019 at St. Anne's Anglican Church, Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
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