

A brilliant swordsman, athlete, violin virtuoso and composer, Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges might well lay claim to being the most talented figure in an age of remarkable individuals. The string quartet was still in its infancy in France in the 1770s, but while these pieces are small in scale they are exceptionally rewarding. Saint-Georges appreciated the intimate nature of this genre, avoiding overt soloistic virtuosity and exploring chamber music timbres, amply demonstrating his rich lyrical gifts and a natural ability to delight performers and audiences alike.



Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de SAINT-GEORGES

(1745–1799)

Six Concertante Quartets (1777)

No. 1 in B flat major	7:14	No. 4 in F major	6:47
① I. Allegro assai	4:31	⑦ I. Allegro	4:47
② II. Gratosio	2:42	⑧ II. Rondeau	2:00
No. 2 in G minor	10:09	No. 5 in G major	10:43
③ I. Adagio	4:48	⑨ I. Allegro assai	5:49
④ II. Aria andantino	5:21	⑩ II. Gratosio	4:54
No. 3 in C major	7:24	No. 6 in B flat major	9:54
⑤ I. Allegro	5:21	⑪ I. Allegro	6:46
⑥ II. Rondeau: Moderato	2:01	⑫ II. Aria con variazione	3:06

Arabella String Quartet

Julie Eskar, Violin I ①–⑥, Violin II ⑦–⑫

Sarita Kwok, Violin I ⑦–⑫, Violin II ①–⑥

Ettore Causa, Viola • Alexandre Lecarme, Cello

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(contemporary etching after Mather Brown, 1761–1831)



8.574360

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Playing Time
52:43



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