



8.574376

DDD

Playing Time
65:31

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The *String Quartet in E minor* by Ethel Smyth, one of the most innovative and original figures in English music, has a masterful coherence and consistency. With eloquent writing for the viola in particular, it is both playful and reverential, and ends with a flourish – forthright, bold and uncompromising, like Smyth herself. Delius wrote the early *String Quartet* in 1888 but it was rejected for performance and he was later to reuse the *Scherzo* for his mature *Quartet* of 1916–19 (8.573586). In 2018 the score of the two opening movements of the 1888 *Quartet*, long assumed lost, reappeared at auction and have been edited and reunited with the final two in this premiere recording, which adds significantly to our understanding of Delius's early compositional directions.

Ethel
SMYTH
(1858–1944)

String Quartet in E minor

(1902, rev. 1912)

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 1 I. Allegretto lirico | 12:41 |
| 2 II. Allegro molto leggiero | 5:21 |
| 3 III. Andante | 12:14 |
| 4 IV. Allegro energico | 9:10 |

Frederick
DELIUS
(1862–1934)

String Quartet in C minor

(1888) (reconstructed by

Daniel M. Grimley [b. 1973],

2021 [5] [6]*)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 5 I. Allegro assai | 10:18 |
| 6 II. Allegro vivace | 4:42 |
| 7 III. Adagio, con molta espressione | 5:15 |
| 8 IV. Finale: Agitato, allegro | 5:37 |

*WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

Villiers Quartet

Katie Stillman, Violin I • Tamaki Higashi, Violin II
Carmen Flores, Viola • Leo Melvin, Cello

Recorded: 14 and 15 [5]–[6], 15 and 16 [1]–[4] March 2022 at Ayrlei Studios, North Yorkshire, UK
 Producer, engineer and editor: Michael Whight

Booklet notes: Daniel M. Grimley

Publishers: Universal Edition A.G. (Wien) [1]–[4]; Delius Trust [5] [6], Stainer & Bell [7] [8]

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