

William Shield rose from relatively humble beginnings to become the 'house' composer to Covent Garden, for which he wrote stage works full of panache and tunefulness. He met and befriended Haydn who was to prove a lasting influence. In 1782 Shield published his *Six String Quartets, Op. 3*, some of the most richly rewarding works of their type in 18th-century England. The transparency of parts, use of imitation, infusion of *Sturm und Drang* elements as well as the bucolic and folkloric writing, all demonstrate Shield's art, as does the progressive writing of the last of the six, in C minor.



**William
SHIELD**
(1748–1829)



Six String Quartets, Op. 3 (pub. 1782)

No. 1 in B flat major*

- 1 I. Aria con variazione
- 2 II. Fuga: Allegro con spirito
- 3 III. Rondo: Allegro

No. 2 in F major*

- 4 I. Allegro moderato
- 5 II. Allegretto

No. 3 in C major*

- 6 I. Allegro moderato
- 7 II. Tempo di minuetto

8:21

2:27

3:02

2:52

8:03

5:50

2:13

13:29

8:00

5:29

No. 4 in E flat major*

- 8 I. Allegro
- 9 II. Adagio
- 10 III. Rondo: Allegro

No. 5 in D major*

- 11 I. Allegro maestoso
- 12 II. Adagio
- 13 III. Rondo: Allegro

No. 6 in C minor

- 14 I. Allegro
- 15 II. Adagio
- 16 III. Allegretto

7:58

2:18

2:43

2:57

11:18

6:39

1:33

3:06

11:22

4:09

4:35

2:38

***WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING**

The Dorrit Ensemble

Elizabeth Layton, Elizabeth Sellers, Violin
Caroline Henbest, Viola • Edith Salzmann, Cello

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8.574446

DDD

Playing Time
60:56



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