

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

No. 4 in E flat major*

- 2:21 ⑧ I. Allegro
- 3:02 ⑨ II. Adagio
- 2:52 ⑩ III. Rondo: Allegro

No. 5 in D major*

- 8:03 5:50 ⑪ I. Allegro maestoso
- 2:13 ⑫ II. Adagio

No. 6 in C minor

- 13:29 8:00 ⑬ III. Rondo: Allegro
- 5:29 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 Sellars, Violin
Caroline Henbest, Viola • Edith Salzmann, Cello**

Recorded: 6–10 December 2022 at Elder Hall, The University of Adelaide, Australia

Producer: Simon Lord • Engineers and editors: Jakub Gaudasinski, Simon Lord • Booklet notes: Robert Hoskins

Kindly sponsored by The University of Adelaide

Publisher: Artaria Editions • Cover: *Covent Garden Market (1737)* by Balthazar Nebot (fl. 1729–1765)

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8.574446

DDD

Playing Time
60:56



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