

The Neapolitan composer Franco Alfano was prolific and highly successful in the field of opera, but he also composed three string quartets over a period framed by the two world wars. *No. 1 in D major* was written during the First World War and stretches the limits of the quartet medium with its quasi-orchestral vigour, tied together with a habanera rhythm. *No. 2 in C major In Three Linked Movements*, though smaller in scale, reflects the range of Alfano's influences, which include Russian and Eastern European music, rustic dances and French impressionism. Work on *No. 3 in G minor* was started in 1944, a year after the death of his beloved wife, to whom Alfano pays tribute in the haunting first movement. The quartet was completed in 1945 and ends with an ebullient monothematic march finale celebrating Ancient Rome.

NAXOS

DDD

8.579042

Playing Time
82:44

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Franco
ALFANO
(1875–1954)

String Quartet No. 1 in D major (1914–18, rev. 1924)

1	I. Vivacissimo	9:08
2	II. Calmo	12:26
3	III. Largo – Allegro deciso	11:24

**String Quartet No. 2 in C major In Tre Tempi Collegati
(‘In Three Linked Movements’) (1925–26)**

4	I. Largo assai –	7:51
5	II. Allegretto semplice (come una canzoncina per bimbi)	4:18
6	III. Molto allegro	9:56

String Quartet No. 3 in G minor (1945)

7	I. Largo	12:33
8	II. Allegretto	7:04
9	III. Allegro	7:44

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

**Elmira Darvarova, Violin I • Mary Ann Mumm, Violin II
Craig Mumm, Viola • Samuel Magill, Cello**

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Cover image: Portrait of Franco Alfano by Renzo Cinti (before 1954) (Archivio Storico Ricordi) –
colourised by Lucian Rinando.