

The Czech-born composer Anton Reicha (1770–1836) was an exact contemporary of Beethoven – and his close friend from their mid-teens. The music of each man demonstrates an awareness of what the other was doing: they showed each other their compositions-in-progress. But although Reicha was closely associated with one of the best-known names in western culture, his own music has been grievously neglected: only his woodwind quintets have achieved any currency. Of his vast cycle of almost forty string quartets just one had been recorded before – an omission this ambitious project intends to put right, thereby revealing one of the most inventive and engaging spirits in classical music.



TOCC 0040

ANTON REICHA Complete String Quartets, Volume Two

String Quartet in C minor, Op. 49, No. 1 (1803–4)

26:58

- | | | | |
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| 1 | I | <i>Allegro assai</i> | 10:36 |
| 2 | II | <i>Adagio, sempre piano e sostenuto</i> | 4:51 |
| 3 | III | <i>Menuetto (Allegro)</i> | 5:52 |
| 4 | IV | <i>Allegro</i> | 5:39 |

String Quartet in E flat major, Op. 48, No. 3 (1802–3)

31:48

- | | | | |
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| 5 | I | <i>Allegro moderato</i> | 17:11 |
| 6 | II | <i>Largo</i> | 6:14 |
| 7 | III | <i>Menuetto (Allegro assai)</i> | 5:22 |
| 8 | IV | <i>Allegro vivace</i> | 3:01 |

Kreutzer Quartet

Peter Sheppard Skærvæd and Mihailo Trandafilovski, violins

Morgan Goff, viola

Neil Heyde, cello

TT 57:46

FIRST RECORDINGS

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