

Matthew Taylor's sense of musical architecture – extending the symphonic tradition of Sibelius and Nielsen into the modern age – can be felt in his chamber music no less than in his orchestral output. Though his String Quartets Nos. 5, 6 and 7 were written in close succession, they are fundamentally different in design and feeling. Quartet No. 5 adopts a pacifying process as a volatile *Allegro* unfolds into a spacious fugue before easing into a delicate lullaby. The core of the Sixth Quartet is a *Romanza* which Taylor wrote for his wife for their wedding. And the Classical clarity of the Seventh Quartet pays tribute to Haydn and Mendelssohn, two composers whom Taylor much admires.



TOCC 0144



MATTHEW TAYLOR String Quartets Nos. 5, 6 and 7

String Quartet No. 5, Op. 35 (2007–8)

- | | | | |
|---|-----|------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | I | <i>Allegro furioso</i> | 14:41 |
| 2 | II | <i>Fuga: Largamente, Intensivo</i> | 4:49 |
| 3 | III | <i>Lullaby: Adagio</i> | 4:33 |

String Quartet No. 6, Op. 36 (2006–8)

- | | | | |
|---|-----|---|-------|
| 4 | I | <i>Giubiloso</i> | 18:38 |
| 5 | II | <i>Romanza – Andante moderato –</i> | 5:38 |
| 6 | III | <i>Andante moderato –</i> | 4:10 |
| 7 | IV | <i>Finale: Bacchanale – Con spirito e riotoso</i> | |

String Quartet No. 7, Op. 37 (2008–9)

- | | | | |
|----|-----|--|-------|
| 8 | I | <i>Allegretto comodo</i> | 20:45 |
| 9 | II | <i>Scherzo – Allegretto scorrevole</i> | 6:43 |
| 10 | III | <i>Adagio – Allegretto grazioso –</i> | 2:50 |
| | | <i>Adagio – Allegretto grazioso –</i> | 6:06 |
| 11 | IV | <i>Finale – Animato ma misterioso</i> | 5:06 |

TT 54:22

FIRST RECORDINGS

MADE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE COMPOSER

Dante String Quartet 1–3
 Allegri String Quartet 4–7
 Salieri String Quartet 8–11

PRESS COMMENT ON THE PREVIOUS TOCCATA CLASSICS CD OF MATTHEW TAYLOR'S MUSIC (TOCC 0015)
 'The three works on this enterprising release [...] reveal a composer of integrity and intelligence. [...] music of quality and genuine staying power. I'm happy to report that performances and recordings [...] are uniformly admirable, as is the presentation (Taylor himself provides the helpful listening notes). Well worth exploring.'
 Andrew Achenbach, *Gramophone*

'Taylor's music seems to possess the rare ability to offer fresh rewards and reveal new discoveries at each hearing. Strongly recommended.'

Phillip Scott, *Fanfare*

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