

Reviews of music by the English composer John Pickard (b. 1963) have stated that 'he has the technique and the temperament to emerge as one of the great symphonists of the 21st century', even that 'his place among the greats is secure'. The earliest and most recent of his five string quartets – neither previously recorded – date from two decades apart but show the same masterly control of counterpoint and an overarching sense of harmonic direction. The First (1991) is cast in a huge single paragraph, 38 minutes in length, unfolding with the drama and pace of an adventure novel; the five-movement Fifth (2012–13) explores a dialectic of conflict and resolution.



TOCC 0197

## JOHN PICKARD Chamber Music, Volume Two

### String Quartet No. 1 (1991)

37:59

1	♩ = 48 –	3:45
2	'unison melody' 1 –	1:26
3	Prelude –	2:16
4	Fugue I –	4:10
5	Fugue II –	4:24
6	'unison melody' 2 –	4:33
7	Meditation –	3:24
8	Prestissimo –	7:49
9	'climax'	3:53
10	Coda	2:19

### String Quartet No. 5 (2012–13)

26:01

11	I <i>Inquieto</i>	6:17
12	II <i>Desolato</i>	4:40
13	III <i>Prestissimo e leggiro</i> –	3:20
14	IV <i>Drammatico</i>	5:20
15	V <i>Molto energico</i>	6:22

TT 64:02

### Brodowski Quartet

FIRST RECORDINGS

David Brodowski, Catrin Win Morgan, violins;  
Felix Tanner, viola; Reinoud Ford, cello

### TOCCATA CLASSICS

16 Dalkeith Court  
Vincent Street  
London SW1P 4HH, UK

Tel: +44/0 207 821 5020  
E-mail: [info@toccatclassics.com](mailto:info@toccatclassics.com)

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