



TOCC 0554

The American critic Robert Reilly described the music on Volume One of this cycle of the complete string quartets of David Matthews (b. 1943) as 'some of the most concentrated, penetrating writing for this medium in the past 30 years or more. It is musical thinking of the highest order and quartet writing in the great tradition of Beethoven, Bartók, Britten, and Tippett'. Matthews' three most recent quartets call in a wide range of references. *Birdsong* – heard in Nos. 13 and 14 – is a standard Matthews topos; and the fugal No. 15 seems to find a middle ground between late Beethoven and folk-music. No. 13 presents the biggest surprise: it introduces four solo voices, siting the work somewhere between Berg's *Lyric Suite* and Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music*. Some touching arrangements and two canons for two Michaels – Tippett and Berkeley – complete the programme.

DAVID MATTHEWS Complete String Quartets, Volume Five

1	String Quartet No. 14, Op. 145 (2016–17)	12:39	BEETHOVEN arr. MATTHEWS		
4	String Quartet No. 15, Op. 159 (2021)	14:50	16	Bagatelle, WoO56 (2014)	2:16
8	String Quartet No. 13, Op. 136 (2014–15)	18:16	FRANZ XAVER GRUBER arr. MATTHEWS		
	ELGAR arr. MATTHEWS		17	Stille Nacht (2018)	1:50
13	Sospiri (2018)	3:56	SCHUMANN arr. MATTHEWS		
	MOZART arr. MATTHEWS		18	Im wunderschönen Monat Mai (2004)	1:37
14	Minuet, K355/576b (2014)	2:34	DAVID MATTHEWS		
15	Gigue, K574 (2014)	2:19	19	Canon for Michael Tippett (1974)	0:55
			20	Canon for Michael Berkeley (1998)	0:57

TT 63:11

Rebecca Lea, soprano ⁸
 Jess Dandy, contralto ⁸
 James Robinson, tenor ⁸
 Will Dawes, baritone ⁸

Kreutzer Quartet
 Peter Sheppard Skærved
 and Mihailo Trandafilovski, violins
 Clifton Harrison, viola
 Neil Heyde, cello

FIRST RECORDINGS

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