



TOCC 0732

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'. The three works in this sixth volume of Matthews' string quartets cover a quarter of a century but share the same basic features, not least a mastery of counterpoint, an impassioned lyricism, a sublimated hint of folksong and occasionally a sly sense of humour, all deployed to touch something essential in the listener. Matthews begins his booklet note with this release by saluting 'my now nearly 30-year relationship with the Kreutzer Quartet, which has been as invaluable to me as Shostakovich's with the Beethoven Quartet, or Beethoven's with the Schuppanzigh Quartet'.

DAVID MATTHEWS Complete String Quartets, Volume Six

String Quartet No. 8, Op. 75 (1997–98)	20:19	String Quartet No. 17, Op. 164 (2022–23)	21:14
1 I <i>Leggiero con moto</i>	7:15	7 I Flamboyant	5:05
2 II <i>Vivo</i>	4:35	8 II <i>Vivace</i>	3:41
3 III <i>Adagio sostenuto</i>	8:29	9 III <i>Adagio</i>	8:15
		10 IV <i>Andante con moto – Allegro con brio</i>	4:13
String Quartet No. 16, Op. 161 (2021)	12:31	BACH arr. MATTHEWS	
4 <i>Andante con moto –</i>	3:40	<i>The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book One, No. 24:</i>	
5 <i>Molto vivace –</i>	2:49	<i>Prelude and Fugue in B minor, BWV869</i>	
6 <i>Lento con molto espressione</i>	6:02	(c. 1722, arr. 2002)	12:35
		11 Praeludium	6:23
		12 Fuga	6:12
			TT 66:41

Kreutzer Quartet
Peter Sheppard Skærved
and Mihailo Trandafilovski, violins

Morgan Goff, viola 4–10
Clifton Harrison, viola 1–3 11 12
Neil Heyde, cello

FIRST RECORDINGS

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