

Erich Wolfgang Korngold wrote a significant body of chamber music (the *Piano Trio* and *String Sextet* are on Naxos 8.574008). His three *String Quartets* reflect differing periods of composition. The *First* marries impetuosity with enticing harmonies and rapt eloquence. The *Second*, which dates from 1933, is notable for its clarity, rhythmic impetus and melodic directness. The post-war *Third* is more relaxed, unexpectedly juxtaposing the archaic and modern with a joyful conclusion.

Erich Wolfgang KORNGOLD

(1897–1957)

String Quartet No. 1 in A major, Op. 16 (1922–23)

31:04

- 1 I. Allegro molto 7:28
- 2 II. Adagio quasi Fantasia: Langsam, mit großem Ausdruck 8:47
- 3 III. Intermezzo: Ziemlich lebhaft, mit Grazie 4:52
- 4 IV. Finale: Allegretto amabile e comodo 9:57

String Quartet No. 2 in E flat major, Op. 26 (1933)

22:03

- 5 I. Allegro 5:12
- 6 II. Intermezzo: Allegretto con moto – Molto più mosso 3:33
- 7 III. Larghetto: Lento – Con moto sentimento 7:56
- 8 IV. Waltz (Finale): Tempo di Valse – Meno mosso – Poco più mosso – Poco meno mosso 5:22

String Quartet No. 3 in D major, Op. 34 (1945)

23:40

- 9 I. Allegro moderato – Tranquillo – Subito agitato – Tempo I – Poco meno 6:16
- 10 II. Scherzo: Allegro molto – Trio: L'istesso tempo – Meno mosso – Più mosso – Scherzo D.C. al Fine 4:17
- 11 III. Sostenuto: Like a Folk Tune – Poco più mosso – Appassionato – Molto meno. Dolce – Tempo I 7:40
- 12 IV. Finale: Allegro – Allegro con fuoco – Più mosso 5:27

Tippett Quartet

John Mills, Violin I • Jeremy Isaac, Violin II

Lydia Lowndes-Northcott, Viola • Bozidar Vukotic, Cello

Recorded: 8–10 November 2021 at School Farm Studios, Little Maplestead, Essex, UK
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