

Central to Lennox Berkeley's chamber music output are the three string quartets that occur at regular intervals during the first half of his career. The *First Quartet* suggests the presence of Bartók and Stravinsky, its style recalling Berkeley's years in Paris, while by the time of the *Second Quartet*, in which the balance between formal clarity and expressive depth is effortlessly achieved, these influences have been thoroughly absorbed. Written in 1970, the *Third Quartet* features one of the composer's finest slow movements, a *Lento* which begins with ghostly harmonics before building to a climax of considerable intensity.

## Lennox BERKELEY

(1903-1989)

### String Quartet No. 1, Op. 6 (1935) 26:27

- |                                    |      |
|------------------------------------|------|
| 1 Allegro – Moderato               | 7:51 |
| 2 Andante non troppo – Lento       | 5:55 |
| 3 Scherzo: Vivace                  | 3:53 |
| 4 Tema and 6 variations – Moderato | 8:48 |

### String Quartet No. 2, Op. 15 (1941) 18:30

- |                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| 5 Allegro moderato | 7:12 |
| 6 Lento            | 5:30 |
| 7 Allegro          | 5:48 |

### String Quartet No. 3, Op. 76 (1970) 18:05

- |                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| 8 Allegro moderato | 4:32 |
| 9 Allegro vivace   | 2:21 |
| 10 Lento           | 6:05 |
| 11 Molto vivace    | 5:07 |

## Maggini Quartet

Lorraine McAslan, Violin I • David Angel, Violin II  
Martin Outram, Viola • Michal Kaznowski, Cello

Recorded at Potton Hall, Westleton, Suffolk, England, from 7th to 9th December, 2006  
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 (Private Collection / Bonhams, London / The Bridgeman Art Library)



8.570415

DDD

Playing Time  
63:02



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