

The legendary Fritz Kreisler and his friend Efrem Zimbalist were both ranked among the greatest violinists of their time, becoming household names in America in the 1920s. Their generation, however, regarded Eugène Ysaÿe as 'the master of us all'. These works all transcend mere virtuoso showmanship. Kreisler's *Quartet* is filled with emotion and unpredictable harmonic shifts, while the tender, sometimes hauntingly beautiful melodies in Zimbalist's *Quartet* hark back to the composer's Russian origins. Ysaÿe's *Harmonies du soir* emerges as a sensual chromatic journey towards a glorious musical sunrise.

Fritz
KREISLER
(1875–1962)

Efrem
ZIMBALIST
(1890–1985)

Eugène
YSAÏE
(1858–1931)

KREISLER:

String Quartet in A minor
(1919) **29:10**

- ① I. Fantasia: Moderato –
Allegro moderato 8:13
- ② II. Scherzo 7:03
- ③ III. Einleitung und Romanze:
Allegretto – Andante con
moto 5:42
- ④ IV. Retrospection 8:08

ZIMBALIST:

String Quartet in E minor
(1931, rev. 1959)* **27:19**

- ⑤ I. Moderato 12:09
- ⑥ II. Con brio 3:24
- ⑦ III. Andante con moto 8:22
- ⑧ IV. Allegro di molto 3:20

YSAÏE:

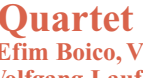
⑨ **Harmonies du soir**
(1924)* † **14:47**

* WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDINGS

Fine Arts Quartet

Ralph Evans, Violin I • Efim Boico, Violin II
Nicolò Eugelmi, Viola • Wolfgang Laufer, Cello

† With the Philharmonic Orchestra of Europe • Otis Klöber



8.572559

DDD

Playing Time
71:36



Made in Germany
www.naxos.com

© 2011, © 2012
Naxos Rights International Ltd.
Booklet notes in English

Recorded at the Library of Klooster Wittem, Wittem Monastery, The Netherlands, 27–30 April 2010
Producer, Engineer & Editor: Florian B. Schmidt • Booklet notes: Roy Malan • Cover photo © Marco Rodolfo
Publishing: Carl Fischer (Kreisler), manuscript courtesy Roy Malan (Zimbalist), Edition Ysaÿe (Ysaÿe)