Johannes Brahms - Clarinet Quintet Op.115 (1999)

1. Allegro
2. Adagio – Piu Lento
3. Andantino - Presto non assai, ma con sentimento play
4. Con moto

David Shifrin – clarinet Emerson String Quartet: Philip Setzer – violin Eugene Drucker – violin Lawrence Dutton - viola David Finckel - cello

Johannes Brahms's Clarinet Quintet in B minor, Op. 115 was written in 1891 for the clarinettist Richard Mühlfeld. It is widely regarded as Brahms's supreme achievement in chamber music. Brahms had retired from composing prior to listening to Richard Mühlfeld play. Brahms may have met Mühlfeld already when Hans von Bülow was directing the Meiningen orchestra. But it was Fritz Steinbach, von Bülow's successor, who brought Mühlfeld's playing to the attention of Brahms in March 1891. Brahms was very enthusiastic about Mühlfeld.

The piece is known for its autumnal mood. It consists of a clarinet in A with a string quartet and has a duration of approximately thirty-five minutes.

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