Haydn – String Quartets Op.17 (1999)

CD 1 *1. String Quartet In E, Op. 17/1 - 1. Moderato 2. String Quartet In E, Op. 17/1 - 2. Menuetto; Trio 3. String Quartet In E, Op. 17/1 - 3. Adagio 4. String Quartet In E, Op. 17/1 - 4. Presto 5. String Quartet In F, Op. 17/2 - 1. Moderato 6. String Quartet In F, Op. 17/2 - 2. Menuetto: Allegretto 7. String Quartet In F, Op. 17/2 - 3. Adagio 8. String Quartet In F, Op. 17/2 - 4. Allegro Molto 9. String Quartet In C Minor, Op. 17/4 - 1. Moderato 10. String Quartet In C Minor, Op. 17/4 - 2. Menuetto; Trio 11. String Quartet In C Minor, Op. 17/4 - 3. Adagio Cantabile 12. String Quartet In C Minor, Op. 17/4 - 4. Allegro*
CD 2 *1. String Quartet In E Flat, Op. 17/3 - 1. Andante Grazioso 2. String Quartet In E Flat, Op. 17/3 - 2. Menuetto; Trio: Allegretto 3. String Quartet In E Flat, Op. 17/3 - 3. Adagio 4. String Quartet In E Flat, Op. 17/3 - 4. Allegro Di Molto 5. String Quartet In G, Op. 17/5 - 1. Moderato 6. String Quartet In G, Op. 17/5 - 2. Menuetto; Trio 7. String Quartet In G, Op. 17/5 - 3. Adagio 8. String Quartet In G, Op. 17/5 - 4. Presto 9. String Quartet In D, Op. 17/6 - 1. Presto 10. String Quartet In D, Op. 17/6 - 2. Menuetto; Trio 11. String Quartet In D, Op. 17/6 - 3. Largo 12. String Quartet In D, Op. 17/6 - 4. Finale: Allegro*
Kodaly Quartet

Along with the Op. 9, these pieces are the least familiar in Haydn's epic series of 68-1/2 quartets, works which established this medium as the highest and most profound form of chamber music, and maybe of all music. As with all transitional works, Op. 17 has something of the character of an experiment--Haydn is still toying with the structure and order of his movements along the way to a fully realized, perfectly balanced classical form. By the time we get to Op. 17 No. 6, he has arrived at his goal, and the rest is history. And because this is Haydn, even those works that show him "playing around" with the musical possibilities are a joy to listen to. --David Hurwitz, amazon.com

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