Joseph Haydn – String Quartets Op.76 Nos. 1-3 (1992)



Op.76 No.1 1 I. Allegro con spirito 2 II. Adagio sostenuto 3 III. Menuet. Presto <u>play</u> 4 IV. Finale. Allegro ma non troppo Op.76 No.2

5 I. Allegro 6 II. Andante o più tosto Allegretto 7 III. Menuet. Allegro ma non troppo 8 IV. Finale. Vivace assai

play

Op.76 No.3

9 I. Allegro 10 II. Poco Adagio. Cantabile 11 III. Menuet. Allegro 12 IV. Finale. Presto Kodaly String Quartet

The Kodaly Quartet's recordings give lie to the idea that there has to be anything second rate about budget priced recordings. When Naxos signed up this Hungarian group, it seems to have done very well for itself, for the performers, and certainly for us listeners. This disc was one of the first by the Kodaly Quartet that I bought, and I now have probably over a dozen of their recordings including more of their Haydn quartet cycle. In my opinion, they consistently and easily hold their own with any "name" group. None of their performances has disappointed. And Naxos's digital recordings also are as good as any. As for the music itself, it would be presumptuous to praise Haydn. Haydn's quartets may not be as well known as Mozart's or Beethoven's, but Haydn is Haydn, and his music surely belongs in the same rank. In many ways, Haydn was the innovator, Mozart and Beethoven the followers, before each of them went off on their own paths. These accessible and affordable performances should boost the popularity of the Haydn quartets. ---William J. Mertens, amazon.com

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Written by bluesever Friday, 05 August 2011 09:12 - Last Updated Friday, 27 December 2013 22:39

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