

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

courtesy of the Mandelring Quartett:
a musical treasure trove of favourite pieces and
gems from classical to blues, pop and tango

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MANDELRING QUARTETT

Sebastian Schmidt, violin • Nanette Schmidt, violin
Andreas Willwohl, viola • Bernhard Schmidt, cello

Favourites from the Mandelring Quartett's inexhaustible repertoire: Mozart's very first string quartet meets classics of Tango Argentino; Haydn's radiant "Bird" string quartet appears alongside Stevie Wonder's top hit *Sir Duke*, Tchaikovsky's *Andante cantabile* and the famous *St. Louis Blues*. This iridescent kaleidoscope presents the Mandelring Quartett at their most personal.

“Every time it rains, it rains pennies from heaven. Don’t you know each cloud contains pennies from heaven? You’ll find your fortune’s fallin’ all over the town. Be sure that your umbrella is upside down. Trade them for a package of sunshine and flowers...” (from: Lyrics to Pennies from Heaven by Johnny Burke)

Small treasures, as promised by the song *Pennies from Heaven* in the eponymous 1936 film with Bing Crosby, are assembled on the latest release from the Mandelring Quartett: favourites, individual movements and encores which the Mandelring Quartett regularly play in concert, but also works which don’t fit into – or at the end of – standard concert programmes and are therefore presented on this album. Whether classical or non-classical, original works or felicitous arrangements for string quartet: all pieces are much loved by the ensemble. After spending weeks searching through their music archives, accumulated over more than thirty years, and sifting out the highlights from a huge body of works, the Mandelring Quartett now present a colourful mixture of miniatures from diverse genres across the centuries. They include rarely played compositions of the classical repertoire, such as a movement from the very first string quartet by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; pieces which the Mandelring Quartett like to play as encores, such as the *Allegretto*, which Dmitri Shostakovich distilled from his ballet *The Golden Age*; tango classics such as *Cafetin de Buenos Aires*, stylishly arranged by Werner Thomas-Mifune; earworm candidates such as the *Andante cantabile* from Pyotr Tchaikovsky’s String Quartet in D major; trouvailles such as the adaptation of the *St. Louis Blues*, which the violinist Sebastian Schmidt discovered whilst on tour in the US when he visited a music shop in Los Angeles in order to buy a music stand because his suitcase had been lost. This compilation combines “Pennies from Heaven” from highly diverse musical spheres into a musical treasure trove – and at the same time presents the Mandelring Quartett at their most personal.

- Fritz Kreisler** / Erik Leidzen (Arr.): *Miniature Viennese March*
- W.A. Mozart**: I. Presto from: *String Quartet No. 3 in G major* & I. Adagio from: *String Quartet No. 1 in G major*
- Arthur Johnston** / Bill Thorp (Arr.): *Pennies from Heaven*
- Antonín Dvořák**: *Waltz in A major, Op. 54 No. 1* & II. Lento from: *String Quartet in F major, Op. 96 ‘American’*
- Mariano Mores** / Werner Thomas-Mifune (Arr.): *Cafetin de Buenos Aires*
- Félicien David**: III. Scherzo. *Allegretto* from: *String Quartet in A major*
- Alexander Borodin**: II. Scherzo. *Allegro* from: *String Quartet No. 2 in D major*
- Enrique Francini** / Werner Thomas-Mifune (Arr.): *La vi llegar*
- Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**: II. *Andante cantabile* from: *String Quartet No. 1 in D major, Op. 11*
- Leroy Anderson** / William Zinn (Arr.): *The Syncopated Clock*
- Dmitri Shostakovich**: *Polka (Allegretto)* from: *The Golden Age, Op. 22*
- Stevie Wonder** / Jörg Widmoser (Arr.): *Sir Duke*
- Joseph Haydn**: IV. Finale. *Rondo. Presto* from: *String Quartet in C major, Op. 33 No. 3 ‘The Bird’*
- Juan Crisóstomo de Arriaga**: III. *Menuetto* from: *String Quartet No. 1 in D minor*
- Héctor Varela** / Werner Thomas-Mifune (Arr.): *El 58*
- William C. Handy** / Matteo Giammario (Arr.): *St. Louis Blues*



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