



Carl Philipp Stamitz: Quartets for Clarinet

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Early Music Review (Victoria Helby - 2013.06.01)

REVIEW Carl Stamitz (1745-1801) published two sets of clarinet quartets in Paris, the first in 1773 and the second six years later. Although his musical upbringing was at the Mannheim court, where the clarinet was used in the orchestra from 1758 onwards, his travels in Europe led him to a style more reminiscent of Mozart in these attractive quartets. Indeed the first few notes of the first movement of op. 19 no. 2 are almost identical to Mozart's Andante for flute and orchestra K315 of 1778. This well-balanced recording is on modern instruments but Arthur Campbell's fluid playing has a lovely warm tone and the supporting strings are not over-vibrant. This is music which certainly deserves to be much better known.