



The RIAS Amadeus Quartet Haydn Recordings

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Gramophone (Rob Cowan - 2017.06.01)

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GRAMOPHONE

Three more first-release recordings arrive via Audité's latest volume of Deutschlandradio Kultur recordings by the Amadeus Quartet, this batch devoted entirely to Haydn, and including works that the Amadeus never recorded commercially: Opp 9/3, 20/5 and 33/2 (*The Joke*). For the last, the Amadeus cut a forceful profile in the scherzo and make an affectionate beeline for the gentle 'joke' at the close of the finale. Their playing of the F minor Quartet (Op 20/5) suggests implied parallels with Mozart's G minor Quintet in the scherzo, while the lilting Adagio is given the loveliest reading imaginable. The C major Quartet Op 54 No 2 features a brief Adagio that can only be described as cantorial: the solo violin wails expressively over supportive chords, the effect not unlike the 'beklemmt' passage in Beethoven's Cavatina (the Quartet Op 130). We're given a complete recording of the Quartet from 1969 and that movement alone as recorded in 1950, both extraordinarily moving. Fifteen works are included overall (the majority originating in Haydn's later period), including *The Seven Last Words* which is additionally available as a downloadable 'extended version' with German texts. An unmissable collection.

Elevated Haydn

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Haydn String Quartets
Amadeus Quartet
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