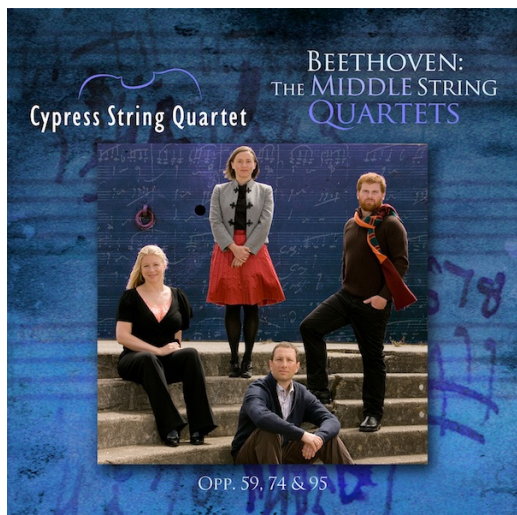




new release information

NOVEMBER 2014



artist: Cypress String Quartet
title: Beethoven The Middle String Quartets
price: 3 CDs for the price of 2
release date: November 2014
selection number: AV 2318
bar code: 822252231823

about the release

Following three acclaimed releases for AVIE surveying works by Dvořák, Schubert and contemporary Americans, The San Francisco-based **Cypress String Quartet** turns to the seminal string quartets of Beethoven, performing the five quartets from the composer's middle period. Formed in 1996, the Cypresses added Beethoven to their repertoire early on. Their signature sound, which is clear and transparent, built up from the bottom register and layered like a pyramid, lends itself beautifully to the Middle String Quartets – the three “Rasumovskys,” the “Harp,” and the “Serioso.”

Throughout the 2014-15 season, the Cypress String Quartet's international performance itinerary includes Beethoven's quartets, as well as other repertoire from their AVIE recordings.

critical acclaim for the Cypress String Quartet

“a tender, deeply expressive interpretation.” – *The New York Times* (on Schubert's String Quintet, AV 2307)

“arresting clarity of sound ... this young quartet is among the most impressive I have heard ... [combining] the utmost scrupulousness and seriousness with a sense of discovery.” – *Stereophile*

“intensity that will melt your heart” – *Fanfare*

summary

Following three acclaimed releases for AVIE surveying works by Dvořák, Schubert and contemporary Americans, The San Francisco-based **Cypress String Quartet** turns to the seminal string quartets of Beethoven, performing the five quartets from the composer's middle period – the three “Razumovskys,” the “Harp,” and the “Serioso.”

promotion and marketing

- Print and online advertising in Gramophone, BBC Music Magazine, Listen, Strings, The Strad
- Priority for review in classical magazines, newspapers and e-zines, and specialty media such as Strings and The Strad
- Priority for airplay on classical radio stations
- E-blast to Avie mailing list (c. 6,000)

tracklist

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827)

CD 1

String Quartet No. 7, Op. 59, No. 1 “Rasumovsky”

- I. Allegro (10:18)
- II. Allegretto vivace e sempre scherzando (9:24)
- III. Adagio molto e mesto (12:36)
- IV. Allegro (*Thème russe*) (8:12)

Total time CD 1: 40:31

CD 2

String Quartet No. 8, Op. 59, No. 2 “Rasumovsky”

- I. Allegro (9:14)
- II. Molto Adagio (12:30)
- III. Allegretto (7:08)
- IV. Finale. Presto (5:38)

String Quartet No. 9, Op. 59, No. 3 “Rasumovsky”

- I. *Introduzione*. Andante con moto – Allegro vivace (11:03)
- II. Andante con moto quasi Allegretto (9:36)
- III. Menuetto grazioso – Trio (5:03)
- IV. Allegro molto (6:04)

Total time CD 2: 66:31

CD 3

String Quartet No. 10, Op. 74 “Harp”

- I. Poco Adagio – Allegro (9:36)
- II. Adagio ma non troppo (9:01)
- III. Presto – Più presto quasi prestissimo (5:10)
- IV. Allegretto con variazioni (6:50)

String Quartet No. 11, Op. 95 “Serioso”

- I. Allegro con brio (4:30)
- II. Allegretto ma non troppo (7:13)
- III. Allegro assai vivace ma serioso (4:30)
- IV. Larghetto espressivo – Allegretto agitato – Allegro (4:47)

Total time CD 3: 51:46

Total time 3 CDs: 2:38:47

Recorded December 17-19, 2012 (Op. 95); May 16-18, 2013 (Op. 59/3); August 9-11, 2013 (Op. 59/1); December 17-20, 2013 (Op. 59/2); July 1-3, 2014 (Op. 74), at Skywalker Sound, California

Producer: Cecily Ward

Recording Engineer: Mark Willsher

Assistant Engineers: Judy Kirschner (Op. 59/1); Dann Thompson (Op. 59/2, Op. 59/3, and Op. 74); Robert Gatley (Op. 95)

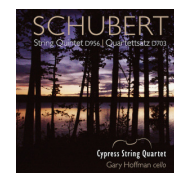
also available



Dvořák Cypresses,
Quartet No. 13
AV 2275



The American Album
Barber, Dvořák,
Griffes, Puts
AV 2304



Schubert Quintet, Quartettsatz
AV 2307