

Dvorak String Quartets Op 34 & Op 105



MUSICWEB INTERNATIONAL Recordings of the Year 2010

Performances of real character, both cultivated and passionate, with a wonderful feel for Dvorak's melodies, especially in the warmth of the slow movements. The contrast of works is also fascinating, the late Quartet 14 more packed with tunes and varied in mood swings yet always engagingly presented by the Wihan Quartet.

MusicWeb International

This is a magnificent performance, offering quartet playing of a very high order.....this work is performed with such admirable commitment and understanding as to place this version at the top of the recommended list. This is a superb interpretation. [This disc] is strongly recommended to all lovers of chamber music.

International Record Review

The Wihan's performance goes to the Quartet's heart....this is an enormously impressive reading that searches out real depth, especially in the slow movement.

BBC Music Magazine

Though they have played these two works for many years in the concert hall, the music still sounds so fresh as it flows without any trace of affectation from the Wihan Quartet. Tempos seem to set their own natural pace, everything shaped with such affection and with that deep understanding seemingly restricted to the composer's native musicians. Taken from 'live' performances they convey the subtle nuances of dynamics. Excellent engineering.

Yorkshire Post

The Wihans cogently display the seamless flow of expression with a fine sense of shape and progression..... the seamless interchange of enjoyment and calm enables the quieter passages to sing more persuasively. This Wihan Quartet live recording is forward and vivid, the audience unobtrusive. It gave me a lot of pleasure and I also liked the contrast of two Dvorák quartets from different periods. The earlier is more direct, the later more skilful in its artistry without forgetting the strength of melody and intensity of expression that make both works rewarding.

MusicWeb International

The Dvorák quartets represent a relatively crowded corner of the repertoire when it comes to commercial recordings, but there are a few things about the Wihan Quartet's continuing series that have the potential to set it apart. From this performance, it is clear that they are heirs to a strong tradition of Czech string playing. I salute the Wihan's impeccable refinement.

MusicWeb International