

Beethoven DVD

the relentless rhythmic bite of the Grosse Fuge is leavened by a lyricism that reveals the sheer beauty that exists alongside the power. There is so much character in these performances: deep feeling, devoid of superfluous sentiment, pervades the Adagio ma non troppo of the 'Harp' Quartet, and humour flows through the second movement of op.59 no.1, signified by the gentle grin on the face of the leader.....this is a rare example of the recording gaining from being on DVD.

The Strad

There is little to add, in fact, to my comments on this performance in the CD version, except to say that it is additionally atmospheric to watch them in action in such lovely surroundings.

the slow movement is gloriously expressive The finale is technically astonishing from all four players. By emphasising the charm of the finale's main theme, the Wihan succeeds in bringing out the contrasts found in this piece more than most. A most rewarding reading.

The "extra" is a fascinating and expertly produced and directed subtitled Czech film that outlines the Wihan Quartet's origins via recollections from the players themselves, as well as giving rehearsal footage and character portraits of each player.

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