

# **MOZART:** Divertimentos, K 563+439b;

Flute Quartet in D

Budapest Trio; Kurt Redel, fl

Bella Musica 312470—72 minutes

Divertimento, K 563; Preludes & Fugues, K 404a

Ssens Trio

LAWO 1170—67 minutes

These two programs take us back and forth in time. The Budapest Trio was recorded in concert in 1982 and 1984; the Ssens Trio (pronounced Essence, they tell us) was recorded in 2018 in memory of August Ludwig Albertsen (1940-2018). The Budapest players are Ferenc Kiss on violin, Tivadar Popa, viola, and Peter Wopke, cello, most of them from Hungary. The Ssens Trio is Scandinavian, consisting of Solve Sigerland, violin, Henninge Landaas, viola, and Ellen Margrete Flesjo, cello. Both begin with the familiar monster Divertimento for string trio that lasts at least 45 minutes, longer in Ssens recording since they take a repeat that Budapest doesn't. The Budapest program continues with the cute little three-movement Flute Quartet with the fine flutist Redel at the helm and ends with an arrangement by hands unspecified of a Divertimento originally for three basset horns or clarinets. This five-movement work also sounds fine for string trio. The recording is clear and there is little evidence of an audience other than clapping at the end of the Flute Quartet.

The Ssens goes on with the first three Preludes & Fugues from Mozart's transcriptions of Bach's fugues from the Well-tempered Clavier, to which he added preludes of his own that fit admirably, as do his scorings. I'm sorry there wasn't room for the last three, but that gives this group an excuse to keep at it. Please do so! This is a warmly interpreted and beautifully played recording that makes me wish for more. Each of these programs has clearly-recorded virtues and no vices. The Ssens is richer in sound with more variety in vibrato. If that attracts you, it didn't turn me away. I look forward to more from them.

D MOORE

*American Record Guide*