

Prussian String Quartets

Title : Prussian String Quartets

Author: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Performers: Engegård Quartet

Record label: Lawo Classics



The string quartet Engegård Quartet, which was released during the spectacular midnight sun at Lofoten, in 2006, has spent many years studying Mozart's music. This year, they have participated in the festival of the Lofoten Islands, whose artistic director is the Norwegian soprano Marianne Beate Kielland.

The four musicians in the camera group decided to record in the Solsiden Church, Frederikstad (2015) the last three quartets of Mozart, written between 1789 and 1790: *String Quartet No. 21 in D Major, K. 575* , *String Quartet No. 22 in B-flat Major, K. 589*, *String Quartet No. 23 in F Major, K. 590* .

It's worth considering that both Haydn and Mozart wrote string quartets with the nickname "Prussians." They felt grateful to King Frederick II of Prussia. The relations between both countries, Austria and Prussia, were always very cordial.

Morten Carlsen, a professor at the Norwegian Music Academy, who participates in the "Educational cultures: a comparative study of instrument tuition" project, writes a learned article on Mozart's relationship with Prussia to the notes of the album.

The Engegård Quartet highlights the vigorous and direct spirit of the young Mozart, despite the maturity of the works. The great dramatic and passionate burden, despite the freshness and vitality of the interpretation of the quartet, immerses us in the music of the last years of Mozart's life.

After listening to this record, which is a beautiful production for us, it is not surprising that the quartet has achieved international recognition. The result is certainly curious because the interpretation of the four musicians highlights the extraordinary melodic quality of these quartets of *Mozartian* spontaneity .

There is sophistication, but there is also the simplicity of Mozart's writing.

A fascinating album!

Text : Núria Serra

<http://sonograma.org/suplement-de-discos/prussian-string-quartets/>