

NEW RELEASE MUSO

September 2017

Edvard GRIEG (1843-1907)

String Quartet No. 1 in G minor, Op. 27

- /1 I. Un poco andante - Allegro molto ed agitato
- /2 II. Romanze: Andantino - Allegro agitato
- /3 III. Intermezzo: Allegro molto marcato - Più vivo e scherzando
- /4 IV. Finale: Lento - Presto al saltarello

Felix MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)

String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13

- /5 I. Adagio - Allegro vivace
- /6 II. Adagio non lento
- /7 III. Intermezzo: Allegretto con moto - Allegro di molto
- /8 IV. Presto - Adagio non lento

/9 **Niccolò PAGANINI (1782-1840)**

Caprice for violin solo No. 20 in D major, Op. 1
(transcription for string quartet by Fedor Belugin)



DAVID OISTRAKH STRING QUARTET

Andrey Baranov, 1st violin - Rodion Petrov, 2nd violin

Fedor Belugin, viola - Alexey Zhilin, cello

The first disc of the David Oistrakh String Quartet met with praise from the press. **Earning comparison with the Borodin Quartet and the Beethoven Quartet, this young group returns with impassioned performances of Grieg and Mendelssohn.**

The Quartet in G minor should be considered the only quartet entirely written by Edvard Grieg, and it is a major work in the repertory. Written in 1878, its composer was then in full possession of his talents and was using an instantly recognisable modern language inspired by traditional national sources. For him, tackling the composition of a quartet was a huge challenge as his fame had thus far been based on the cultivation of small forms, for the piano, though also songs, and indeed he took one of his lieder, *Spillemaend (Minstre)*, as the main theme of his quartet. The work, written in a musical language that was innovative for the time, quickly acquired great popularity and was to influence many composers.

Like many of his contemporaries Felix Mendelssohn was deeply marked by Beethoven, and was full of admiration for his quartets. Like Grieg, he took inspiration from one of his own themes to construct his Quartet No. 2, that of his lied *Frage (Question)*. Written just after Beethoven's death, his mourning produced a work of extraordinary maturity and tempestuousness, even if the work ends in serenity. Beneath a homage to Beethoven lies hidden a surge of love, that of a young man moving out of his teenage years, yet already an absolute master of his art and ready to lay claim to his elder's torch.

"No sooner formed, this young quartet already reaches excellence." *"It is a joy to see the birth of a new quartet of international class, excellent in every respect."* *"A group to be followed closely."* *"A phenomenal decryption... that is never toned down":* such is the welcome accorded to the David Oistrakh Quartet, led by the violinist Andrey Baranov, for its first recording. Their powerful, contrasted, physical yet always subtly emotional performance suits these two new works in the repertory to a wonderful degree.

Reference: MU-021

Total time: 64'37

Digipak / Booklet 16 pages

Liner notes by Michel Stockhem in English, French, German and Russian

Recorded in Flagey - Studio 4, Brussels (Belgium) from 24 to 27 July 2015

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The first recording of the David Oistrakh Quartet received much praise from the press (*'No sooner formed, this young quartet already reaches excellence.'*). Achieving comparison with the Borodin and the Beethoven Quartets, this young group offers an impassioned performance of Grieg and Mendelssohn: a powerful, contrasted, physical and always subtly emotional performance.

DAVID OISTRAKH STRING QUARTET

The David Oistrakh Quartet features today's most outstanding Russian musicians. In 2012 the family of the legendary 20th century violinist honoured the quartet with his name. Over the years, artistic friendship and a passion for the art of the quartet brought the young soloists and the grand masters of quartet together to form this extraordinary ensemble. All four musicians play on exemplary Italian instruments made by Antonio Stradivari, Niccolò Amati and Francesco Ruggeri.

The David Oistrakh Quartet frequently performs at many of the most prestigious Russian venues, including all of the country's famous philharmonic halls. They have travelled throughout Europe, performing in France, Belgium, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Denmark; they also recently made their debut in Japan, Hong Kong and South America. Over the last few years, the quartet had the honour to play at various famous festivals, including in Georgia, where they collaborated with famous artists such as Eliso Virsaladze, Eduard Brunner and Liana Isakadze.

Their first CD, featuring works by Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich was highly acclaimed by the international press; a second recording, dedicated to Grieg and Mendelssohn, has just been released by 'muso'.

www.oistrakhquartet.com



Also available:



Piotr Ilitch TCHAIKOVSKY / String Quartet No. 2 in F major, Op. 22 Dmitri SHOSTAKOVICH / String Quartet No. 8 in C minor, Op. 110

DAVID OISTRAKH STRING QUARTET / Andrey Baranov, 1st violin

A new string quartet's debut recording is always a memorable occasion; muso is proud to welcome into its catalogue the David Oistrakh String Quartet, a young ensemble founded in 2012 by the violinist Andrey Baranov, in a programme featuring two quartets by two of the greatest Russian composers - Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich - for this impressive debut on the international recording scene!

Reference: MU-011
Bar code: 5425019973117
Released in September 2016

'Founded in 2012 under the aegis of the violinist Andrei Baranov, winner of the Queen Elisabeth Competition in 2012, the David Oistrakh Quartet seems to take inspiration from the great Russian quartets of the past. Difficult indeed not to think of the Borodin and Beethoven Quartets, so much does the physical impulse dominate in their performance. (...) Carried by a first violin with an incandescent sound, the quartet plays on every contrast, every attack. (...) One can but admire such energy and the theatrical character - in the good sense of the term - of the performance.'

Stéphane Friédérich / *Classica* (France) / September 2016

'It is a delight to see the birth of a new string quartet of international class, Russian this time. (...) Straight off this new quartet appears excellent in every respect. (...) We have everything here: apart from the sound quality, what strikes one most is the commitment of the four Russian artistes and the faultless mastery of the dynamics: they 'dynamite' the Allegro molto and give all requisite power to the Beethovenian aspects of the first Largo. I have listened to several versions of this quartet: they surpass even the Prazak (2010), you have to go back to the first Borodin recording to find a version of near comparable level.'

Thierry Vagne / *Classical Music & Co* (France) / 10 July 2016

'The Oistrakh Quartet presents an extremely balanced and technically accomplished performance. (...) Exceptional work from the Oistrakh on sound and rhythm. (...) A group to be followed closely.'

Jean-Pierre Robert / *L'Education Musicale* (France) / September 2016

'Four Russian musicians have chosen to baptise their string quartet in honour of the virtuoso violinist David Oistrakh. Astonishing or not, their playing presents certain analogies with that of the Russian master who died in 1974. (...) Faced with this expressionistic score, and making no concessions to convention, the David Oistrakh Quartet comes close to the unsurpassable performance of the Borodin Quartet from 1978. (...) A phenomenal decryption of two great Russian masters that is never toned down.'

Jean-Luc Caron / *Resmusica.com* (France) / 26 August 2016