

Wihan QUARTET

Beethoven Middle Quartets



"When I reviewed the Wihan Quartet's recordings of Beethoven's late quartets earlier this year, I declared myself impatient to hear the promised subsequent releases that would make up the whole set. The playing is again full of rich colours...What's most impressive, however, is the intelligent shaping of each work, both in terms of large-scale form and internal balance. This ensemble really listens to itself and thinks profoundly about this great art. "

The Sunday Times

This issue completes the Wihan's latest set of the Beethoven Quartets....this is magnificent quartet playing: I am not sure I can name a finer account of this on disc in the past 50 or so years.

International Record Review

The Wihan Quartet's live accounts of the Beethoven Quartets are ever stimulating and searching, as this three-disc set underlines. The youth of the quartet surfaces in enthusiasm and a questing, fresh approach that should not be undervalued. The recording reminds me of the techniques used for the Quartetto Italiano's Beethoven cycle – harsh at times but fully revealing of all detail.....there is true beauty married to total concentration.

The second "Razumovsky", the E-Minor, is given a gritty, determined reading. The first movement oozes energy, while the sublime second is one of the finest things I have heard the Wihans do. The contained ecstasy, the concentration and the tonal finesse are all present and add up to a reading that exudes a maturity far beyond the quartet members' years. The excellence of Leoš Cepický's first violin is of particular note: sweet-toned, and with superb articulation.

MusicWeb International