



Joachim Raff
(1822-1882)

Sextet op. 178
Grand Quintet op. 107

Ensemble Villa Musica

MDG 304 1181-2



Close Reading

Hard to believe but true: at the beginning of the 1870s Joseph Joachim Raff numbered among those composers whose works were most often performed in German-speaking countries. He satisfied the taste of the times like no other composer and published one work after another. The prizewinning Ensemble Villa Musica again turns to a chapter of music history too quickly and not closely enough read during other times.

Summit Meeting

Not a few Raff contemporaries regarded his musical language as the summit of Central European artistry. In 1869 Hans von Bülow effusively declared that Raff's Grand Quintet op. 107 was "the most important work in the field of chamber music since Beethoven."

Hard Times

Raff's parents, who lived in Switzerland, did not have the means to finance the education of their talented son. He developed his compositional capabilities autodidactically and later had to make ends meet with occasional work, as a salesperson in a Cologne music shop, as a music teacher, or as Liszt's private secretary.

Public Renown

It was from Wiesbaden, where his wife was an actress, that Raff's works finally found the dissemination that he had hoped for. At the height of his public renown Raff assumed the post of

director of the recently founded Hoch Conservatory in Frankfurt in 1877. Under his leadership the conservatory became one of the leading institutions of its kind.

Also available:

François Devienne (1759-1803)
Sonatas for Oboe & B.c. op. 70 & 71
Sonatas for Bassoon & B. c.
Ensemble Villa Musica
MDG 304 1749-2 (2 CDs)



Amilcare Ponchielli (1834-1886)
Chamber Music
MDG 304 1618-2



Louis Spohr (1784-1859)
Quintets op. 52 + 130
Sextet op. 140
Septet op. 147
Ensemble Villa Musica
MDG 304 1263-2 (2 CDs)



Richard Strauss (1864 – 1949)
Wind Chamber Music Vol. 2
Suite op.4, Serenade op.7,
Sonatina
Ensemble Villa Musica
MDG 304 1173-2

Wind Chamber Music Vol. 1
Sonatina
Till Eulenspiegel (arr.)
Ensemble Villa Musica
MDG 304 1172-2

