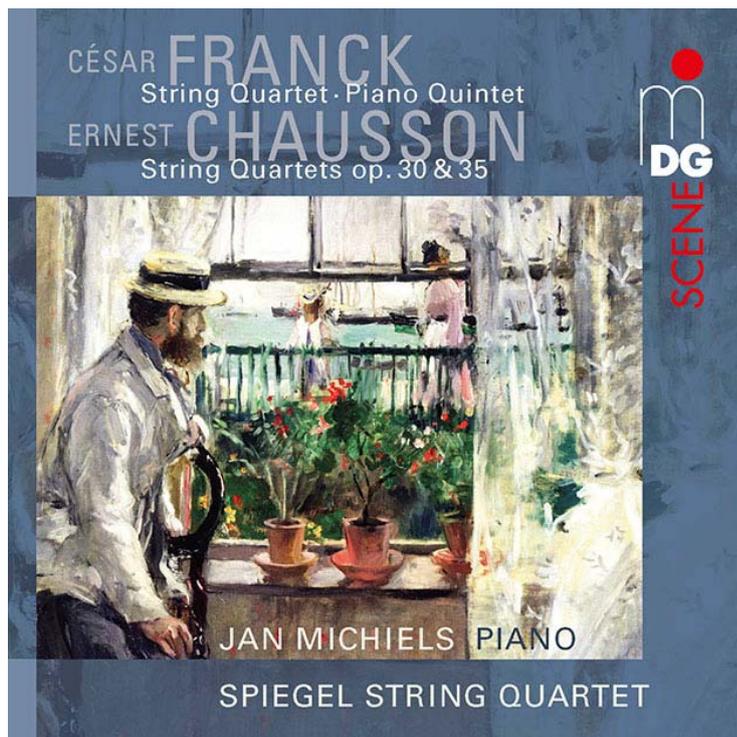


NEW • NOUVEAUTE • NEUHEIT

MDG
SCENE



César Frank (1822 - 1890)
Quartet and Quintet

Ernest Chausson (1855 – 1899)
Quartet op. 30 & 35

Jan Michiels, piano
Spiegel String Quartet

MDG 644 2145-2



LC06768

French Connection

César Franck and Ernest Chausson: this MDG top-interest special edition presents chamber music by two French composers connected by much more than just the teacher-pupil relationship. The first release of their string quartets, Franck's Piano Quintet, and Chausson's Piano Quartet by the Belgian Spiegel String Quartet and the pianist Jan Michiels received an enthusiastic reception from music experts and the listening public alike.

National Security

Chamber music did not have an easy time in opera-loving France - until César Franck joined forces with like-minded individuals to establish the Société nationale de musique in 1871. The society's declared goal was to break the dominance of German chamber music – which was also a political priority after France had come out on the losing side of the Franco-Prussian War. And so Franck developed a clear style of melodic emphasis with anticipations of the impressionist era.

Friendly Contribution

Franck expected that his students would demonstrate a perfect command of form. Chausson adhered to this policy, though it did not keep him from following in Wagner's harmonic footsteps. The victim of a cycling accident at the age of forty-four, he did not live to complete his only string quartet. Vincent d'Indy finished the work in the spirit of his classmate.

Traffic Fatality

Franck too was fatally injured in a traffic accident. He was hit by a horse-drawn omnibus, never recovered, and died a few weeks later. During the last decade of his life, he celebrated the greatest musical successes. Along with the two works recorded here, this period witnessed the composition of his famous Violin Sonata. Concertgoers greeted the String Quartet with enthusiasm already at its premiere – rightly so, as the “performance exceptionnelle” by the Spiegel String Quartet substantiates with solid audio evidence.

also available:

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Piano Quintet op. 42
String Quartet op.12
Levente Kende, piano
Spiegel String Quartet
MDG 644 1505-2

Guillaume Lekeu

(1870-1894)
Streichquartett,
Klavierquartett, Adagio
Jan Michiels, piano
Spiegel String Quartet
MDG 644 1266-2