



D. Shostakovich: Complete String Quartets Vol. V

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This is the fifth volume of the Shostakovich quartets recorded by Germany's Mandelring Quartet, and all three here are played with immense style and intensity, amounting to savagery. The 11th was written as a memorial to the second violin of the Beethoven Quartet which premiered 12 of the composer's quartets. Friendship and musicianship are intertwined. The 13th is melodically linked to a Beethoven Quartet member who had retired at 70 and is a long arch of melody virtually in one movement. It was completed in 1970 shortly before the composer's second heart attack and few listeners will escape the preoccupation with death as both horrific and final. The 15th is a devastating farewell comprising six adagios in the form of serenade, nocturne, funeral march, and others. It represents a life and an era and is a masterpiece, marvellously played.