

Quartetto Italiano – The Complete RIAS Recordings Pioneer of Italian chamber music culture with remarkable homogeneity of sound



recordings: Berlin, 1951-1963
PREMIERE RELEASES



Gaetano Donizetti: String Quartet No. 7
Luigi Cherubini: String Quartet No. 5
Gian Francesco Malipiero: String Quartet No. 4
Dmitri Shostakovich: String Quartet No. 7
Maurice Ravel: String Quartet in F major
Franz Schubert: String Quartet No. 8 (D. 112)
Robert Schumann: String Quartet No. 2, Op. 41/2
Joseph Haydn: String Quartet, Op. 77/1
Robert Schumann: String Quartet No. 3, Op. 41/3

The Quartetto Italiano, pioneer of Italian chamber music culture, was one of the leading string quartets of the 20th century. The complete RIAS radio productions, released here for the first time, testify to the ensemble's exceptional stature, the remarkable homogeneity of its quartet sound, and the enormous breadth of its repertoire.



Italian string quartet culture then and now:
Quartetto Italiano – Quartetto di Cremona

parallel release
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QUARTETTO ITALIANO

The ensemble's confidently-chosen name made it clear from the outset that the Quartetto Italiano saw itself not simply as an Italian string quartet among many, but as the authoritative one. The ensemble was soon recognized as a pioneer of Italian chamber music culture following the Second World War. Through their tireless obsession with detail, in-depth exploration of the works' musical expression, and the remarkable homogeneity of their quartet sound, the Quartetto Italiano conquered a firm place in the top league of leading string quartets over the first two decades of their career.

The first release of the complete productions realized by the Quartetto Italiano for Berlin's RIAS between 1951 and 1963 highlights two aspects that the musicians would increasingly neglect in their later recordings: firstly, the focus on the music of their fellow countrymen, represented here in rarely-heard works by Gaetano Donizetti, Luigi Cherubini, and Gian Francesco Malipiero; and secondly, the enormous breadth of their repertoire, which ranged from Joseph Haydn, the father of the classical string quartet, to Dmitri Shostakovich's Seventh String Quartet (brand new at the time of the recording). Three works on this release (Cherubini, Donizetti, and Shostakovich) can be heard performed by the Quartetto Italiano for the first time on CD.

This release is furnished with a "producer's comment"  by producer Ludger Böckenhoff on <https://www.audite.de/media/file/00/34/66/21456-Producer-s-comment.pdf>

 This release forms part of our series "Legendary Recordings" and bears the stamp "1st Master Release". The term stands for the exceptional quality of audite's archive releases which are all, without exception, produced using original tapes from the radio archives. Usually, these are the original analogue tapes with tape speeds of up to 76 cm/s, which are of astonishingly high quality, even by today's standards. In addition, the process of re-mastering – executed with professional expertise and sensitivity – reveals hitherto hidden details of the interpretations, creating a sonic image of superior quality. CD releases produced from private recordings of radio broadcasts or old 78rpm records cannot match this level of sound quality.

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- Features rarely-heard repertoire of the ensemble
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ORIGINAL TAPES

