Franz Schubert composed fifteen string quartets during his short life: an astonishing diversity in this most exclusive chamber music combination from which only three popular works are usually heard in the concert hall. With Schubert's Quartet in D minor “Death and the Maiden,” the Mandelring Quartet have recorded one of the most significant string quartets since Beethoven. It is a dramatically turbulent work, with variations on Schubert’s own song as the intimate heart of the work. This major work of the quartet literature is contrasted with the String Quartet in E-flat major, D. 87, a work by the 16-year-old Schubert which in no way reveals youthful immaturity, but is thoroughly inspired by the spirit of Haydn and Mozart.

Originally Vol. I of the Schubert series with the Mandelring Quartett was recorded in surround sound quality. However, the production was released in CD-format at the time. This current reissue of Vol. I presents the recording in SACD-format for the first time.