



The Ritz near Salsingen (1873) by Hans Thoma (1839–1924)

Composer: **Antonín Dvořák** (1841–1904)  
 Title: **Piano Quintet in A Op 81**  
**String Quintet in G Op 77**  
 Artists: **The Gaudier Ensemble**  
 Catalogue No.: **CDH55472**  
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 Release Date: **February 2014**  
 Total Duration: **65'38**

## The Gaudier Ensemble

Marieke Blankestijn *violin*  
 Lesley Hatfield *violin*  
 Iris Juda *viola*  
 Christoph Marks *cello*  
 Stephen Williams *double bass*  
 Susan Tomes *piano*

### Piano Quintet No 2 in A major Op 81 [34'18]

1 Allegro, ma non tanto [9'59] 2 Dumka: Andante con moto [13'05]  
 3 Scherzo (Furiant): Molto vivace [4'00] 4 Allegro [7'14]

### String Quintet in G major Op 77 [31'16]

5 Allegro con fuoco [9'05] 6 Scherzo [7'38]  
 7 Poco andante [7'24] 8 Allegro assai [7'09]

The two works recorded here come from different periods in Dvořák's career. In the String Quintet in G he dispenses with a second viola, instead placing a double bass beneath the single cello, but textural richness is not the composer's aim: one can listen to passages of the work without sensing any pointed differences from quartet texture.

Similarly, the success of the Piano Quintet in A rests on its happy reconciliation of forces. Dvořák's early attempts at composing for the piano had been hampered by his own lack of familiarity with the instrument, but in this work he achieves a remarkable fluency, with five instruments operating as consistent equals and in harmonious unity and balance.

'L'homogénéité des instrumentistes, la fraîcheur de l'inspiration, la passion pudique paraissent en pleine lumière' (*Le Monde de la Musique*, France)