

KODÁLY - SMETANA

STRING QUARTETS

VÉGH QUARTET

SÁNDOR VÉGH (VIOLIN)
SÁNDOR ZÖLDY (VIOLIN)
GEORGES JANZER (VIOLA)
PAUL SZABO (CELLO)

Zoltán Kodály String Quartet No. 2, Op. 10 (1916-18)

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro (5:40)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Andante quasi recitativo - Andante con moto - Allegro giocoso (11:06)

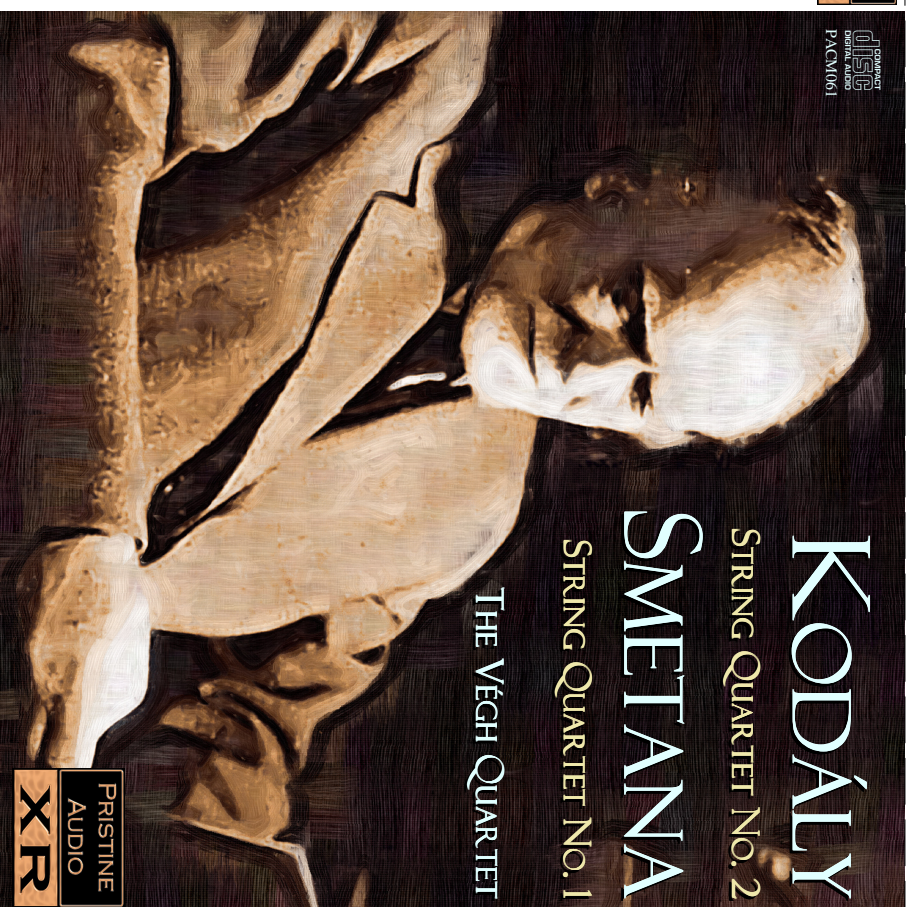
Bedřich Smetana String Quartet No. 1 'From My Life' in E minor (1880)

- 3 1st mvt. - Allegro vivo appassionato (8:14)
- 4 2nd mvt. - Allegro moderato à la polka (5:26)
- 5 3rd mvt. - Largo sostenuto (9:50)
- 6 4th mvt. - Vivace (6:09)

First issued in the UK in 1954 as Decca LP LXT2876
Transfer and restoration from US London LP LL-865 by Dr. John Duffy.
Additional XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, October 2008
Cover artwork based on a photograph of Zoltán Kodály

Total duration: 46:25 © 2008 Pristine Audio.

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KODALY: STRING QUARTET No. 2; SMETANA: STRING QUARTET No. 1
VÉGH QUARTET

PRISTINE
AUDIO

KODALY: STRING QUARTET No. 2 SMETANA: STRING QUARTET No. 1 VÉGH QUARTET

COMPACT
disc
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KODALY: STRING QUARTET No. 2; SMETANA: STRING QUARTET No. 1
VÉGH QUARTET

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PRISTINE
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The Végh Quartet was a Hungarian string quartet founded in 1940 and led by its first violinist Sándor Végh for 40 years. The quartet was based in Budapest until it departed Hungary in 1946. They are particularly known for their recordings of Beethoven (recorded twice - 1952 mono and 1972-4 stereo) and Bartók cycles.

Sándor Végh (Kolozsvár, [at the time called Klausenburg and part of the Hungarian Kingdom, now called Cluj-Napoca and part of Romania] 17 May 1912 – Salzburg, 7 January 1997), Hungarian violinist and conductor. He was best known as one of the great chamber music violinists of the twentieth century.

He began studying the piano at the age of six. He entered the Budapest Conservatory in 1924, taking violin studies with Jenő Hubay and composition with **Zoltán Kodály**. He began a career as a solo violinist and in 1927 played a Richard Strauss composition under the composer's baton. He graduated from the Conservatory in 1930, having won the Hubay Prize and the Reményi Prize from the institution in 1927. As his solo career was developing, he joined the Hungarian Trio with Ilonka Krauss and László Vencze.

In 1934 he became one of the founding members of the Hungarian String Quartet. He was initially the first violin, but gave that position to Zoltán Székely and took second chair. He participated with the Hungarian String Quartet in the first performance of Béla Bartók's String Quartet no. 5.

Végh left the Hungarian Quartet in 1940 to found his own quartet, the Végh Quartet. During the same season he became a professor at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. He and the quartet left Hungary in 1946. The quartet continued to give concerts until the mid-1970s; Végh also made solo appearances as a violinist. He took French citizenship in 1953.

In 1962 he met cellist Pablo Casals, who invited Végh to join him in giving summer classes in Zermatt, Switzerland (1953-62), and to appear annually in Casals' Prades Festival (1953-69). He found teaching rewarding, and thereafter taught in Basle Conservatory (1953-63), Freiburg (1954-62), Düsseldorf (1962-69) and the Mozarteum in Salzburg (1971-97).

He founded the International Chamber Music Festival of Cervo in 1962 and often conducted there. He founded the Sándor Végh Chamber Orchestra and conducted it for a term lasting from 1968 to 1971, and conducted the Marlboro Festival Orchestra (1974-77). In 1979 he became conductor of the Camerata Academica at the Mozarteum. With them he made a recording of Mozart's divertimentos and serenades that won the Grand Prix du Disque in 1989.

He was awarded "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" in 1986, Doctor Honoris causa of the Warwick and Exeter universities (1987), an honorary appointment as Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in 1988 and the gold medal of Salzburg in 1987.

After a short illness, he died at a hospital in Freilassing, just across the border from Salzburg.

NOTES FROM WIKIPEDIA - FULL NOTES ON THIS RECORDING CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM