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HAYDN

STRING QUARTETS

THE PASCAL STRING QUARTET:

Jacques Dumont, violin
Maurice Crut, violin
Leon Pascal, viola
Robert Salles, cello

Quartet in D minor, Op.76, No.2, "Fifths"

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro (6:46)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Andante a più tosto allegretto (4:21)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Menuetto: Allegretto ma non troppo (3:04)
- 4 4th mvt. - Vivace assai (4:08)

Quartet in E flat major, Op.33, No.2, "Joke"

- 5 1st mvt. - Allegro moderato, cantabile (4:39)
- 6 2nd mvt. - Scherzo: Allegro (3:30)
- 7 3rd mvt. - Largo sostenuto (4:04)
- 8 4th mvt. - Finale: Presto (2:57)

Recorded in Paris, November 1948.
Note that some distant traffic noise is faintly audible at times on this recording.

Transferred from Musical Masterpiece Society 10" LP, MNS-47

Source material from the collection of Jean-François Lamberet

Transfer and XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, March 2009

Total duration: 33:29 ©2009 Pristine Audio.

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HAYDN: STRING QUARTETS 'FIFTHS' AND 'JOKE'
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The Pascal Quartet was a French string quartet musical ensemble which took shape during the early 1940s and emerged after World War II to become a leading representative of the French performance tradition. It was named after its founder, the viola player Léon Pascal, and was occasionally termed the Leon Pascal Quartet.

Throughout its recording career during the 1940s and 1950s, the personnel comprised:

1st violin: Jacques Dumont
2nd violin: Maurice Crut
viola: Léon Pascal
violoncello: Robert Salles

During the 1930s Léon Pascal occupied the viola desk in the celebrated Calvet Quartet, with Joseph Calvet, Daniel Guilevitch (i.e. Daniel Guilet of the Beaux Arts Trio) and Paul Mas (cello). Pascal appears in the 1931-1938 recordings made by that ensemble. The recordings of the Pascal Quartet begin before 1945. The quality of the soloists with whom they recorded attest to the standing of the Pascal Quartet. McNaught said of them that 'due praise would mean a further search for words.' Record Year 2 (p.47-48), on the other hand, found many faults with their Beethoven cycle, which others have admired intensely.

Of the two recordings which feature on this release, the first, Op. 76 No. 2 in D minor ("Fifths"), was the only recording by the Pascal Quartet to be released on the UK HMV label on 78s. It was reviewed in The Gramophone in March 1949 thus:

The performance of this fine quartet is perhaps more lively than distinguished but the youthful vigour of the playing is most attractive.

I have seldom heard so excited a first violin The chording is rough in several places: before the "second subject," for example, before the recapitulation in the first movement, and at the end of the movement. The expression marks in my score are not invariably observed but I do not know how authentic these are.

The recording, dubbed from a tape recording made in Paris, is remarkably good and vital and shows an admirable balance of parts. The only weak spot comes after the second double bar in the finale when the held high A for the first violin is practically inaudible.

Every Haydn quartet we are given is a cause for rejoicing, and from this one, as with all the rest, the listener can confidently expect lasting enjoyment and profit...

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

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