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Divertimenti Viennesi / Cicchitti, Musica Elegentia

Release Date: 05/01/2020
Label: Brilliant Classics Catalog #: 96127
Composer: Carl Ditters von Dittersdorf, Johann Baptist Vanhal, Michael Haydn
Conductor: Matteo Cicchitti
Orchestra/Ensemble: Musica Elegentia Consort
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Divertimento in G Major: I. Allegro

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Mi piace Ti piace.

Notes and Editorial Reviews

All three composers gathered together on this unique compilation were active in Vienna in the last half of the 18th century, and all had mastered the craft of writing music for pleasure – as much in the playing as the listening – rather than devotion or edification. They were also expert string players – Dittersdorf and Vanhal formed the other two members of a famous ‘composers’ quartet’ that included Joseph Haydn (younger brother to Michael) and Mozart – and so wrote these divertimentos from the inside, as it were. The Divertimenti included in the album were composed in the 1760s. They are all fairly brief, multi-movement pieces, easy on the ear and of fairly simple construction, with the first violin taking the lion’s share of the melody. However, a little closer listening will reveal many small refinements in the secondary parts (viola e violone), which not only support the main part, but interact with it in lively musical conversation: an inter-instrumental dialogue which is particularly emphasized in this recording. Michael Haydn’s C major Divertimento P.110 has the most conventional, four-movement structure, whereas Vanhal’s symmetrical design encloses a lovely Adagio within a pair of minuets, a free-flowing first movement and a syncopated finale bristling with energy and high spirits. The six trios by Dittersdorf are all two-movement pieces, pairing a quick introduction with a gentler minuet. The common but unusual element to the scoring of all the music on this album is the absence of cello in the basso continuo role, which is written down the octave to be played by a violone or double bass. This often creates a gruff or humorous character – especially in Michael Haydn’s Divertimento – but Vanhal in particular requires a musician of agility to zip up and down the instrument and writes for it as a deeper cello. [Read less](#)

Works on This Recording

- Trios (6) for Strings** by Carl Ditters von Dittersdorf
Conductor: Matteo Cicchitti

Orchestra/Ensemble: Musica Elegentia Consort

2. **Divertimento for Strings in G major** by *Johann Baptist Vanhal*

Conductor: Matteo Cicchitti

Orchestra/Ensemble: Musica Elegentia Consort

Period: Classical

Written: Italy

3. **Divertimento for Violin, Cello and Double Bass in C major, P 99** by *Michael Haydn*

Conductor: Matteo Cicchitti

Orchestra/Ensemble: Musica Elegentia Consort

Period: Classical

Written: circa 1787; Austria

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