

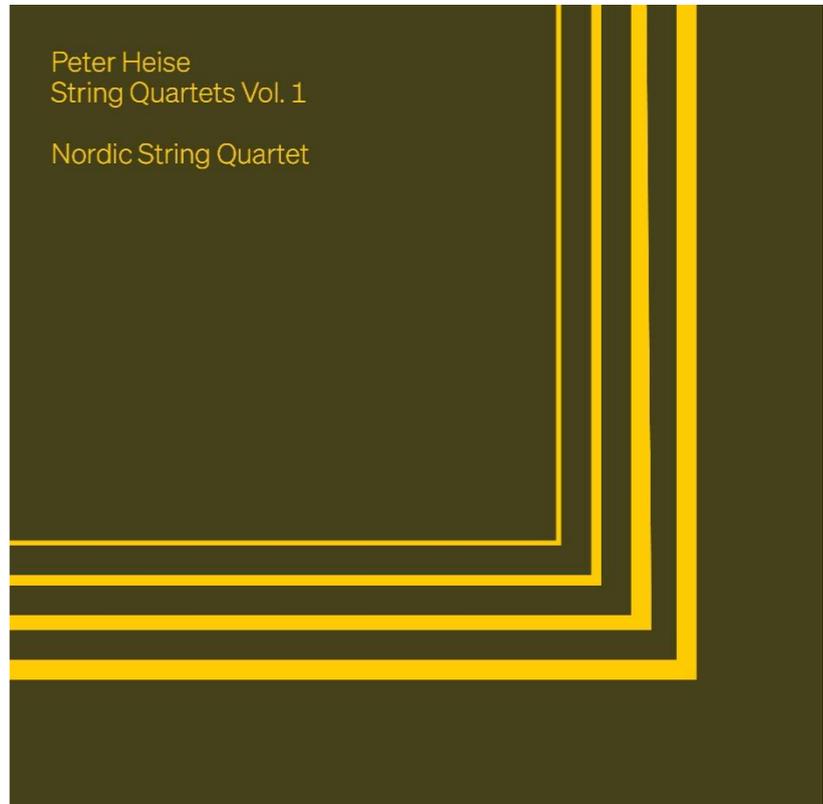
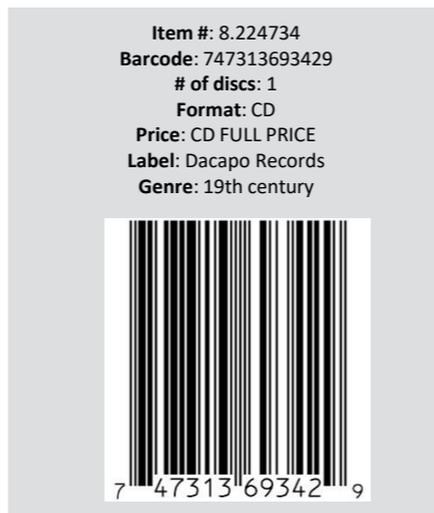
PETER HEISE

The String Quartets Vol. 1

Nordic String Quartet

Heiðrun Petersen, *violin*
 Mads Haugsted Hansen, *violin*
 Daniel Eklund, *viola*
 Lea Emilie Brøndal, *cello*

Between 1851 and 1857, Peter Heise (1830–1879) wrote six string quartets for the intimate musical soirées of Copenhagen’s refined upper class. Heise was a celebrated and cherished composer in his native Denmark, but his quartets sadly fell into obscurity. In the first installment of their two-part series, the Nordic String Quartet revives these elegantly fluid works with a spacious and lyrical approach, infusing a sensibility attuned to Heise’s distinctive poetic touch



CONTENT

String Quartet No. 2 in G major (1852)	22:12
[1] I Allegro molto vivace	6:03
[2] II Largo	6:34
[3] III Menuetto. Allegro	3:14
[4] IV Allegro molto	6:19
String Quartet No. 1 in B minor (1852)	23:53
[5] I Allegro	6:15
[6] II Larghetto	7:08
[7] III Scherzo. Prestissimo	3:33
[8] IV Allegro vivace	6:56
String Quartet No. 3 in B flat major (c. 1853)	25:18
[9] I Moderato assai – Allegro assai vivace	8:58
[10] II Scherzo. Presto agitato	5:43
[11] III Andante sostenuto	4:13
[12] IV Finale. Molto allegro	6:23
	Total 71:24
World premiere recording	

MORE PETER HEISE

THE SONG EDITION (2021)
 Elsa Dreisig, Bo Skovhus, Sofie Elkjær Jensen, Jakob Bloch Jespersen, Mari Eriksmoen and more, *singers*
 Christian Westergaard, *piano*
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DROT OG MARSK (2021)
 Peter Lodahl, *tenor*
 Johan Reuter, *baritone*
 Sine Bundgaard, *soprano*
 Sofie Elkjær Jensen, *soprano*
 The Royal Danish Orchestra
 The Royal Danish Opera Chorus
 Michael Schønwandt, *conductor*
 SACD BOX 6.200006



SONGS FOR MALE VOICES (2013)
 Danish National Vocal Ensemble
 Danish National Concert Choir
 Michael Schønwandt, *conductor*
 SACD 6.220598



THIS IS THE STORY

- Even though Peter Heise (1830-1879) was one of Denmark’s most **popular and beloved** composers, his quartets succumbed to a quite exceptional oblivion. The obscurity has lasted until today, and this recording of the first three is a premiere: it is music that has hitherto been **virtually unknown**.
- Peter Heise especially experienced succes with his opera **Drot og Marsk**, arguably the best Danish opera of the 19th century, and his **hundreds of very popular songs** and romances.
- After Heise’s death, they were packed away, probably by his widow to protect his high posthumous reputation. The First String Quartet found itself in a folder labelled ‘Heise’s hand-written music from old times, not to be printed, **maybe better burned**’.
- Through the 1950s, the quartets began circulating and being performed again, but none of them embedded themselves into the repertoire in Denmark, which is **quite strange**, since there is certainly not an abundance of Danish quartets from the 19th century to compete with.
- The String Quartets Nos. 1 and 2 are refined, charming works with a **humorous character**, with elements reminiscent of Schubert, Mozart and Haydn.
- No. 3 significantly raises the level of ambition and moves away from the entertaining. It is written in a true **Romantic fashion**, reminiscent of **Nordic folk music** and Carl Nielsen’s unorthodox style.
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