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News

Recording release date: September 11, 2020

Dover Quartet Begins Complete Beethoven Cycle with Opus 18 Quartets on Cedille Records Sept. 11

**Celebrated ensemble's newest release,
first in a three-volume series, coincides
with composer's 250th anniversary year**

The Dover Quartet, which holds residencies at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., and Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, launches the first of three installments of their complete cycle of Ludwig van Beethoven's string quartets with the September 11, 2020, release of the composer's Opus 18 set on Cedille Records.

The new recording, *Beethoven Complete String Quartets: Volume 1 The Opus 18 Quartets*, is a double-album priced as a single disc. The set includes Beethoven's String Quartets No. 1 in F major, No. 2 in G major, No. 3 in D major, No. 4 in C minor, No. 5 in A major, and No. 6 in B-flat major (Cedille Records CDR 90000 198).

The timing of the album's release is a nod to the worldwide celebration of the 250th anniversary of the German composer's birth.

"Recording the Beethoven cycle is something we've always wanted to do," Dover's violist, Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt, said in an interview with Cedille Records. "But we wanted to wait until we'd given several complete performances and gotten to know every quartet in performance as well as in the practice room."

Dover has performed the complete quartets at the University of Buffalo's Slee Cycle, the University of Connecticut's Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, and the Montreal Chamber Music Festival. *Seen and Heard International* called Dover's Montreal cycle "a musically transformative event."

Quartet 'theatricality'

In Opus 18, composed between 1798 and 1800 and influenced by Mozart and Haydn, "the young Beethoven forged ahead with the latest trends in quartet theatricality," Beethoven scholar

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Nancy November writes in the album's program notes.

Parajo-van de Stadt echoes that assessment, citing “dramatic contrasts of mood and character” and scoring that’s “playful and conversational,” such as the “back and forth between instruments” in Quartet No. 2. “It’s so much fun to play.”

In Opus 18, she says, “We feel like four actors on stage in a theatrical production.”

Recording Team

The Dover Quartet's new album was produced by Alan Bice and engineered by Bruce Egge November 30–December 3, 2018, and September 23–26, 2019, at Sauder Concert Hall, Goshen College Music Center, Goshen, Indiana.

Dover Quartet on Cedille Records

Beethoven Complete String Quartets: Volume 1 The Opus 18 Quartets is the Dover Quartet's third Cedille Records release.

The Dover Quartet made its recording debut with 2016's *Tribute: Dover Quartet Plays Mozart* (Cedille Records CDR 90000 167), honoring their teachers and coaches from the Guarneri Quartet. The album was inspired by the Guarneri's own all-Mozart debut album a half-century earlier. “This is a smart debut from a quartet that has a brilliant future ahead of it,” said *Audiophile Audition*. *Fanfare* proclaimed, “This is music-making not of the highest order but of the *next* order.”

In 2017, Cedille released the quartet's *Voices of Defiance*, “their ingeniously designed programme” (*BBC Music Magazine*) of World War II-era works by Dmitri Shostakovich, Viktor Ullmann and Szymon Laks. (Cedille Records CDR 90000 173). A critic for *The New York Times* called it “one of the most powerful new releases to cross my desk.” The *Wall Street Journal* found it “an illuminating voyage . . . undoubtedly one of the most compelling discs released this year.”

The Dover Quartet first garnered international attention by sweeping the 2013 Banff Competition, at which they won every prize.

Named the Cleveland Quartet Award winner and honored with the coveted Avery Fisher Career Grant, Dover has been hailed as “the young string quartet of the moment” by *The New Yorker*. Its rise to the top has been “practically meteoric” (*Strings*).

The Dover Quartet was recently appointed the first Penelope P. Watkins Ensemble in Residence at the Curtis Institute of Music. In addition to its residencies at Northwestern University and the Kennedy Center, it also serves as quartet-in-residence at Chamber Music Northwest, Artosphere, the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, and Peoples' Symphony in New York.

Website: www.doverquartet.com

Cedille Records

Launched in November 1989, Grammy Award-winning Cedille Records (pronounced say-DEE) is dedicated to showcasing and promoting the most noteworthy classical artists in and from the Chicago area.

A highlight of Cedille's 30th anniversary season, 2019–2020, is its first-ever Emerging Artist Competition. Individual performers and ensembles from the Chicago area are competing for the opportunity to make their featured debut recording, produced by and released on the award-winning label. A panel of respected classical music professionals has selected 10 semifinalists from among nearly three dozen applicants. Semifinal and final rounds of judging, originally scheduled for May 2020, will take place via livestreamed public performances by the contestants when local coronavirus-related public health restrictions allow.

The audiophile-oriented label releases every new album in multiple formats — physical CD, 96 kHz, 24-bit, studio-quality FLAC download, and 320 Kbps MP3 download — and on major streaming services.

An independent nonprofit enterprise, Cedille Records is the label of Cedille Chicago, NFP. Sales of physical CDs and digital downloads and streams cover only a small percentage of the label's costs. Tax-deductible donations from individual music-lovers and grants from charitable organizations account for most of its revenue.

Cedille's headquarters are at 1205 W. Balmoral Ave., Chicago, IL 60640; call (773) 989-2515; email: info@cedillerecords.org. Website: cedillerecords.org.

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Beethoven Complete String Quartets

Volume 1 The Opus 18 Quartets

Dover Quartet

Cedille Records CDR 90000 198

Disk One

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

String Quartet No. 1 in F major, Op. 18, No. 1

String Quartet No. 2 in G major, Op. 18, No. 2

String Quartet No. 3 in D major, Op. 18, No. 3

Disk Two

String Quartet No. 4 in C minor, Op. 18, No. 4

String Quartet No. 5 in A major, Op. 18, No. 5

String Quartet No. 6 in B-flat major, Op. 18, No. 6