



The RIAS Amadeus Quartet Schubert Recordings

aud 21.428

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Gramophone (Philip Clark - 01.01.2014)

GRAMOPHONE **Amadeus's early prime**

At various stages in their long career the Amadeus Quartet have remained remarkably consistent interpretation-wise, but this doesn't mean that hearing them play single works more than once constitutes musical repetition. Interestingly, Audite's second instalment of their RIAS recordings marks some clear contrasts with commercial sessions recorded for DG at around the same time. On this Schubert set, the main items are Death and the Maiden (1954; generally more genial than the Abbey Road recording for DG made the previous year), the Rosamunde Quartet (a warmly yielding performance – a prime sampling of the Amadeus at this period) and, most impressive of all, the late G major (D887), recorded in 1950 and more strikingly dramatic than its famous DG successor of the following year. Perhaps the most marked difference is with the little E flat Quartet (D87), specifically the Adagio, which between 1951 (Audite) and 1955 (DG) speeds up by a full minute. I much prefer the earlier version. Also included in Audite's set is the G minor, D173, its Andantino second movement taking a fairly blatant look back to Mozart's Eine kleine Nachtmusik. The finale is particularly crisp in execution, though the track indicator starts a millisecond after the music. Good sound, and useful notes, too.