



The RIAS Amadeus Quartet Mozart Recordings

aud 21.427

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RECORD REVIEW Reissues and historic recordings

Mozart in Berlin

The Amadeus Quartet recorded all the Mozart 'Haydn' and 'Prussian' Quartets for RIAS in Berlin between 1950 and 1953, along with the Clarinet Quintet with Heinrich Geuser in 1952 and the String Quintets, K515, 516, 593 and 614, with Cecil Aronowitz in 1953 and 1957. These performances are more or less contemporary with the studio versions released by DG in a box of 1950s Amadeus Quartet Mozart (474 0002, now download only), which included some of this ensemble's freshest and most unaffected playing. Now Audite has released the RIAS radio recordings of virtually the same repertoire. These are similarly marvellous and in amazing sound (as usual Audite has achieved astonishing results with the master tapes), which is at least as good as that of the DG records from the period. Anyone troubled by the later Amadeus style (including a tendency to over-phrase) and the occasional unpredictability of Norbert Brainin's tone will surely warm to these performances as I did (I prefer their greater spontaneity to the DG stereo studio set). With an interesting note as well as superb remastering this is an exceptional Mozart collection (Audite 21.427, five discs, 5 hours 34 minutes).