



## Dmitri Shostakovich: Complete String Quartets Vol. III

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**D**acw classic Shostakovich's fifteen String Quartets are among the 20th century's most profound chamber works, outstanding both in their craftsmanship and spirituality. This highly decorated Soviet 'model composer' composed chamber music increasingly in his later years as he sought to maintain his inner non-conformism. The Quartets are consequently very personal and poignant works. Influenced by Ludwig van Beethoven's legacy, Shostakovich experimented with a suite-like variety of forms and extended his musical spectrum considerably. His Fifth Quartet, written in 1952, is a masterpiece and was the first to have a direct connection with one of his symphonies (the Tenth). The Seventh Quartet, completed in 1960, is his shortest and is dedicated to the memory of his first wife, Nina, who had died in 1954. The work moves between passion and tension and draws largely on fugal writing to make the distinctions apparent. The Ninth Quartet (1964) is another highly personal work, dedicated to Irina Antonovna Shostakovich, the wife he married two years before. This third volume of Audite's Complete Edition of Shostakovich String Quartets includes all three of the above pieces played by the acclaimed Mandelring Quartett, who give impressive and emotional performances of this technically demanding yet compelling music.