



Franz Anton Hoffmeister

String Quartets, Op.14

String Quartet in F, Op.14 No.1 ([AE171](#))

String Quartet in Bb, Op.14 No.2 ([AE172](#))

String Quartet in D minor, Op.14 No.3 ([AE170](#))

Aviv Quartet

[Naxos 8.555952](#)

Hoffmeister composed just over 30 string quartets and the three that comprise Hoffmeister's opus 14 were advertised in the Wiener Zeitung on 15 January 1791 as being his newest works. Dedicated to one Joseph de Preuer, they reveal their composer to be a man of taste, refined musical skill and considerable talent. By virtue of their scoring and texture they are closer to Mozart's quartets than Haydn's. But Hoffmeister was no Mozart epigone and the airiness, energy, and art found in these three works elegantly and eloquently plead for their reexamination, resurrection and recording.

[The Aviv Quartet's] playing is filled with excitement and energy and also exhibits nimbleness as well as a stunning command of their instruments. The result is sessions that are focused and committed, phrases perfectly manicured and shaped with elegance. In sum, these recordings are passionate, sympathetic; they compel admiration for the performers and the music and also bring long overdue credit to Franz Anton Hoffmeister.

*Michael Carter
Fanfare, March/April 2004*

In Brief

For those who have not come across Hoffmeister's string quartets, as a general guide I would describe them as being finely worked with an abundance of character. What immediately strikes me about these convincing and appealing quartets is how they brim over with attractive melodies and consistently maintain a mood of unbridled joy.

The performers play with real youthful enthusiasm of vim and vigour that always feels secure and technically accomplished. The Aviv Quartet led by Sergey Ostrovsky is the most exciting ensemble that I have heard for some time and they are I feel destined for an esteemed career.

Fascinating and adept string quartets from an almost forgotten composer and another sure-fire winner from the champion Naxos stable.

*Michael Cookson
Classical Music Web*