

Reviews | May 2021

*The Signum players relish its rhythmic vitality with a feather-light touch, while plumbing the unexpected emotional depths of the following Siciliano; an agreeably lilting Ländler of a Minuet is followed by a whirlwind Finale. ... A 'Death and the Maiden' that stands tall in a crowded field*

**The Strad** | Schubert - Ins Stille Land | Carlos Maria Solare | January 2, 2021

*... an affecting new way of playing and listening to Schubert ... As if they were singers themselves, the quartet in the transcriptions plays with a sensitivity and attention that seems to carry over to their playing of the quartets. ...Prepare for a deeply moving experience*

**Strings magazine** | Schubert - Ins Stille Land | Laurence Vittes | March-April 2021

*... by contrast, the Signums offer something organic, a natural progression, airy textures and transparent and flexible lines. Their aesthetic of fullness without heaviness and their refusal to give into pathos and excess is reminiscent of the recording by the Alban Bergs (Warner, 1984), but distances itself from them by their sensitive and emotional playing.*

**Classica** | Schubert CD – Ins Stille Land | Fabienne Bouvet | April 2021

*... passionate, often brilliant, but also clear and lean ... a D 810 finale so swift that it feels genuinely dangerous ... an album that repays careful and repeated listening.*

**Gramophone** | Schubert CD – Ins Stille Land | Richard Bratby | 1/2021

*That this develops into a dialogue between Schubert's dual composer souls of lied and chamber music to which one does not merely listen, but by which one is spellbound and enthralled, is thanks to the highly concentrated, creative, versatile and emotional playing of the four musicians.*

**Rondo** | Schubert CD - Ins stille Land | Guido Fischer | November 28, 2020

*The Signum Quartett's players are at their best in the slow and quiet segments, which hold special concentration – the variations' theme is a good example, as well as the Haydn-like slow movement of the early String Quartet, D. 74. After few listening sessions, I came to appreciate their tender and inward-looking performance of the String Quartets, as well as their clever way of storytelling through the song arrangements.*

**The Classic Review** | Tal Agam | November 20, 2020

*This interpretation presented by the Signum Quartet has nothing massive to it and starting from its very first beat one can hear the quartet's preference of a light aesthetic which reminds us of their last Schubert recording which we liked so much.*

**Diapason** | Beethoven CD | Jean-Michel Molkhov | April 2020

*That energy was set up by Walther, Van Dijk, Schmitz and Signum's first violinist, Florian Donderer, in the Schubert, a performance as boldly imagined as a symphony, with startling rhythmic daring in the scherzo and timbres that ranged from ashen to silver in the variations.*

**The Times** | Kings Place London | December 5, 2018

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*As for the Signum's interpretational attributes, top of the list are its clean and focused tone, precise articulation and perceptive applications of varying vibratos, all of which add up to some luminously lucid textures. There's its impeccable blending, achieved within an overall balance weighted most often towards the first violin, followed by the cello, with the other two hugged close behind. Then, while the quartet can certainly do angry forcefulness and biting vehemence, perhaps their readings' greatest beauty is the intimate emotional trinity they intertwine of dignity, fragility and pain. In fact just listen to their 'Du bist die Ruh', for then I need say no more.*

**The Strad** | CD Schubert | Charlotte Gardner, June 22, 2018

*The quartet play transparently and eloquently, without a hint of sentimentality, in performances that deal unflinchingly with the music's latent violence. The slow movement of the A minor Quartet, in particular, veers terrifyingly into the darkness ... Definitely not Schubert as easy-listening, then, but a fascinating, thought-provoking disc.*

**Gramophone** | CD Schubert | Richard Bratby | May 2018

*Let the top-performing Signum Quartet on their new album take you on an exciting journey through selected Lied and quartet compositions by Schubert.*

**highresaudio** | CD Schubert | April 2018

*The intimacy of the famous Andante [of D 804], the exceedingly gentle palpitations in the Menuetto as well as the authentic freshness of the Finale are emblematic of one of the most sensitive interpretations ever recorded.*

**Diapason** | CD Schubert | Jean-Michel Molkhou | September 2018