

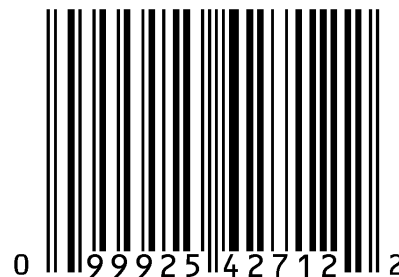


**SHOSTAKOVICH
STRING QUARTETS 2/7/8
PAVEL HAAS QUARTET**

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PAVEL HAAS QUARTET
SHOSTAKOVICH
String Quartets 2 / 7 / 8

PAVEL HAAS QUARTET

Veronika Jarůšková – 1st violin
Marek Zwiebel – 2nd violin
Radim Sedmidubský – viola
Peter Jarůšek – cello

Recorded at the Domovina Studio, Prague, 11–12, 26–27 and 30–31 May, 2019.

Shostakovich – his music is a challenge each and every quartet sooner or later has to face up to. Yet when it comes to the Pavel Haas Quartet, it seems to be in their very DNA. The ensemble's unbridled, impulsive and, now and then, frenetic energy, sense for extreme contrast, ability to bring to bear gradation from breath-taking subtlety and tenderness to symphonic drama are facets essentially incident to Shostakovich's music. Although composed in safety, away from the horrors of World War II, String Quartet No. 2 (1944) reflects the suffering, uncertainty and anxiety of living at the time (the lyrical Recitative of the second movement, as performed by Veronika Jarůšková, the first violin). Both dating from 1960, String Quartets Nos. 7 and 8 are truly intimate confessions. While Shostakovich dedicated the former (the shortest piece of the cycle) to the memory of his first wife, he most likely intended the latter as his own epitaph, at the time when he hovered on the thin line between life and death. Attesting to the autobiographical nature of String Quartet No. 8 is the opening DSCH motif, Shostakovich's musical signature, which reoccurs throughout the piece.



The Pavel Haas Quartet surpass the abyss of time, as well as the barrier of personal physical existence, delving into the very centre of Shostakovich's music and reflecting the full scale of emotions with airiness, as if the music were their own.

The Pavel Haas Quartet and (in truth) their Shostakovich. At long last!

DMITRY SHOSTAKOVICH (1906–1975)

String Quartet No. 2 in A major, Op. 68 (1944) 36:00

1/ I. Overture. Moderato con moto	8:07
2/ II. Recitative and Romance. Adagio	11:30
3/ III. Valse. Allegro	5:25
4/ IV. Theme with variations. Adagio – Moderato con moto	10:46

String Quartet No. 7 in F sharp minor, Op. 108 (1960) 12:56

5/ I. Allegretto	3:38
6/ II. Lento	3:21
7/ III. Allegro – Allegretto	5:54

String Quartet No. 8 in C minor, Op. 110 (1960) 21:38

8/ I. Largo	5:00
9/ II. Allegro molto	2:54
10/ III. Allegretto	4:38
11/ IV. Largo	5:16
12/ V. Largo	