

**J. S. Bach**  
Contrapunctus XVIII  
**Ludwig van Beethoven**  
String Quartet op. 131  
**Ernst Krenek**  
String Quartet No. 1. op. 6

**Musicians:**  
BeethovenQuartett

**1 Hybrid-SACD  
plus DVD-Video**

**Order Number:**  
Audiomax 946 1517-6

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**Motto: B – A – C – H**

It is with heart and soul that the BeethovenQuartett is now presenting its debut on an SACD with featuring 2+2+2 multi-channel sound. On the bonus DVD Peter Gülke's discussion about music with the musicians is followed by a fascinatingly simple film realization of Beethoven's op. 131 by Jan Schmidt-Garre.

"At a time when we obtain our whole knowledge exclusively from the here-and-now of the Internet, we too easily forget the aspect of historical context," the BeethovenQuartett explains. "We would like to enable the listener once again to experience music history and its development."

The recording under the motto B-A-C-H sheds light on the suspenseful course of this motif so very important in the history of music. Bach himself employed it intentionally only once, in the Contrapunctus XVIII of his *The Art of Fugue*. In his outstanding commentary Peter Gülke convincingly demonstrates the great importance of this motif, which had long been an icon, in Beethoven's ultimate String Quartet op. 131.

When the twenty-year-old Ernst Krenek, as yet a student and without his composition teacher's knowledge, chose precisely this world-famous motto for his first string quartet and employed it all too clearly in it, then this was certainly an inconceivable effrontery – not only in the eyes of his unsuspecting composition teacher. The premiere was frenetically celebrated by his fellow students but also described as a scandal.

Just prior to aged composer's death the musicians had the opportunity to play it for him: "Wonderful, but remember that I was a young man then; so play it with even greater passion."