

**Ludwig van Beethoven**  
String Quartet op. 132  
**Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy**  
String Quartet op. 13

**Musicians:**  
BeethovenQuartett

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

**Order Number:**  
Audiomax 946 1573-6

**UPC-Code:**



---

The Beethoven Quartet founded by members of the former Sonare Quartet in 2006 has set itself the goal of presenting concert cycles enabling audiences to experience music history. This idea encompasses not only the programmatic design of the cycles but also sophisticatedly incorporates the film medium in a bonus DVD.

### Stroke of Genius

What links Beethoven's op. 132 to Mendelssohn's early op. 13? Beethoven's Quartet in A minor op. 132 reflects the circumstances of its composition in the movement headings, with the slow movement entitled "Holy Song of Thanksgiving of a Convalescing Man to the Divinity" occupying its center. Beethoven did indeed become seriously ill while composing the quartet but was able to complete the work he had begun. Already the very beginning marks a motif easily recognizable as a derivation from B-A-C-H. In its continuous series of new shapes it may be viewed as more than just the motto and core of the whole of the quartet. During the year of Beethoven's death Mendelssohn produced in his op. 13 a work full of allusions very clearly referring to Beethoven's op. 132, not only in the design of its movements but also practically reproducing some passages – for instance, when Beethoven's "Holy Song of Thanksgiving" is heard in the high register at the end of the adagio.

On the basis of his great model Beethoven, Mendelssohn at the same time pulled off a genuine stroke of genius: motifs from Beethoven, quasi-atomized into their individual components, no longer determine his quartet. It is – very much in keeping with romanticism – a feeling that pervades the entire work in the form of the simple piano song "Is it true?" and frames it: "You will hear it speaking in the first and last pieces with its notes, in all four pieces with its feeling."

With the song as its inspiration and foundation, the Quartet op. 13 becomes a great "song without words," an experiment along Mendelssohn's path to his very own lyrical form blurring the distinctions between absolute music and program music.

Previous release: J. S. Bach: Contrapunctus XVIII  
Ludwig van Beethoven: String Quartet op. 131  
Ernst Krenek: String Quartet No. 1 op. 6  
BeethovenQuartett  
Audiomax 946 1517-6 (1 Hybrid-SACD plus DVD-Video)

*"Everything is here you wanted to know, hear and see about the art of fugue and were afraid to ask - I will be listening to this disc much more in the future, my ears like it very much." (Audiophile Audition)*