


Schubert was living with his brother Ferdinand in 1828, and it is not impossible that they resumed the chamber music meetings which had given them so much enjoyment in past days. A chance gathering of Ferdinand and Franz, with one other violinist and two cellists, would have called for the kind of string quintet produced in vast quantities by Boccherini.

On October 2, 1828, Schubert wrote to Heinrich Albert Probst, a Leipzig music publisher, offering him the three last piano sonatas, six settings of poems by Heine, and the Quintette in C major, which he said was soon due to be tried out. When Probst replied, he expressed interest only in the songs, so the Quintette, one of the supreme masterpieces in the entire field of chamber music, lay unknown and unplayed for twenty-two years. Such was its popularity in the late nineteenth century that a spurious symphony was compiled from it and "discovered" at Coblenz, the word being put about that the Quintette was nothing more than a sketch for the symphony. Fortunately, this hoax was soon exposed, and the Quintette occupied its deservedly high place of honor among Schubert's mature creations.



THE
HEIFETZ-PIATIGORSKY
CONCERTS
with PRIMROSE and Guests
SCHUBERT/Quintette (C major)

Original Liner Notes

For many years Jascha Heifetz and Gregor Piatigorsky had enjoyed playing chamber music in the privacy of their homes, a happy and noble form of music-making in which they were often joined by similarly addicted colleagues. Eventually, in the summer of 1961, they decided to share their musical experiences and pleasures with music lovers of the surrounding communities. They founded the Heifetz-Piatigorsky Concerts, an intimate series dedicated to chamber music masterpieces.

After the first concerts, five of the works were studio recorded by RCA Victor. The concert performances, in their perfected teamwork, their life and zest, elegance and style, were permanently captured on discs for the enjoyment of music lovers everywhere. From his earliest youth, Schubert grew up to the sounds of chamber music, for his father was a cellist and saw that his sons took up stringed instruments in order to form a family quartet. This was, in due course, constituted with Ferdinand and Ignaz as first and second violins and Franz as viola players.

Ferdinand Schubert's reminiscences of his brother's life include a description of the family quartet and an amusing observation on the sensitivity of the youthful composer and viola player. A wrong note would bring an immediate reaction from Franz, and

when the offender happened to be his father, he would say, "Sir, there must be a mistake somewhere!" These regular rehearsals certainly inspired his earliest compositions for the string quartet. As time went on, he began to appear at musical parties in homes other than his own, and he continued to take part in chamber music almost to the end of his life. One of his schoolfellows was Johann Georg Hellmesberger, father of Joseph Hellmesberger, whose concerts from 1849 until 1887 presented many of the quartettes, quintettes, and sextettes now recognized as masterpieces. On November 17, 1850, Schubert's Quintette in C major appeared on the program for the very first time, probably in a cut or otherwise mutilated version. Nevertheless, it must have made a good impression on Josef Doppler, for he arranged to have it published by C. A. Spina (in parts only, not in score) in 1853. The autograph had been acquired by Diabelli & Co. (predecessors of Spina) a year or so after Schubert's death. Two cellos instead of two violas

Why, in the very last year of his life, Schubert should have written a quintette with two cellos instead of two violas is something of a mystery, though it may have been due to local circumstances, which so often dictate unusual scoring.



The Heifetz-Piatigorsky Concerts Schubert Quintette

The Heifetz-Piatigorsky Concerts

Schubert Quintette (C Major)

with Primrose and Guests

1 Allegro Ma Non Troppo 12:36

2 Adagio 10:16

3 Scherzo: Presto; Trio: Andante Sostenuto 7:32

4 Allegretto 7:40

Released by RCA 1964

Engineer – David Hassinger

Producer – Peter Dellheim



For more info e-mail us:
info@highdeftapetransfers.ca
or visit our website:
www.highdeftapetransfers.ca

The Heifetz-Piatigorsky Concerts Schubert Quintette

