

Perhaps no other British composer of the first half of the twentieth century reveals a stylistic musical journey as great as Frank Bridge. His early works follow in the late-Romantic tradition bearing a kinship with Fauré; later Bridge comes close to Delius. After the First World War, however, his music became intense and chromatic. In his *String Quartet No. 3* (1926), Bridge rubs shoulders with the early works of the Second Viennese School. Commissioned by the American patroness Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge, it fully revealed for the first time Bridge's advanced mature voice. The work's language shows kinship with Berg and Bartók; the twelve semitones are constantly in play; octave doublings are avoided, and the music is driven by a relentless momentum. Bridge's *First String Quartet* was written in haste in the space of a month in response to a competition organized by the Accademia Filarmonica, Bologna. Of the 67 quartets submitted only Bridge's received a 'mention d'honneur'.

Frank BRIDGE

(1879-1941)

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| | String Quartet No. 1 in E minor 'Bologna' | 29:01 |
| ① | Adagio - Allegro appassionato | 8:40 |
| ② | Adagio molto | 9:27 |
| ③ | Allegretto grazioso - Animato | 4:47 |
| ④ | Allegro agitato - Allegro moderato - Adagio molto | 5:55 |
| | String Quartet No. 3 | 30:35 |
| ⑤ | Andante moderato - Allegro moderato | 11:52 |
| ⑥ | Andante con moto | 8:00 |
| ⑦ | Allegro energico | 10:38 |

Maggini Quartet

Laurence Jackson, David Angel, Violins • Martin Outram, Viola • Michal Kaznowski, Cello

Recorded at Potton Hall, Suffolk, England, 18th-20th June 2002
 Producer & Post Production: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.)
 Engineer: Eleanor Thomason (K&A Productions Ltd.)

This recording has been recorded and edited at 24 bit resolution

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Bridgeman Art Library / Atkinson Art Gallery, Southport, Lancashire, U.K.

NAXOS

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Playing Time
59:35



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