



BELCEA QUARTET AT MIDDLE TEMPLE HALL, LONDON,

Classics of Classics attended, in London (11/10/2019), a recital of the Belcea Quartet in the Middle Temple Hall, a historic Elizabethan building, built between 1562 and 1573.

Beethoven's 250th anniversary commemorative program was entirely dedicated to string quartets from the three phases of the German composer: Quartet nº 3 in D Major , Op. 18; Quartet nº 16 in F Major , Op. 135; and Quartet nº 8 in ME Minor , Op. 59 nº 2, "Razumovsky".

The public reception was enthusiastic: Belcea received a standing ovation at the end.

Beethoven's quartets

Beethoven composed 16 string quartets throughout his life. Considered a milestone in the composition for this genre, while the first six (Op. 18) show a classic heritage, especially from Haydn and Mozart, those from the intermediate phase (Op. 59) already reveal greater musical complexity and dramatic intensity, culminating in quartets of the last phase (Opp. 131, 132, 133 and 135), in which the composer passes from maturity to the exploration of new paths.

Belcea Quartet

One of the most acclaimed string quartets today, the London-based group celebrates 25 years of activities in 2019. With an impressive discography, Belcea has already recorded the integrals of the Britten, Bartók and Beethoven quartets (Gramophone Awards 2011), in addition to works by other composers.

"Beethoven's music has been central to our trajectory since the first rehearsal. The 16 quartets, written over 200 years ago, are one of the most complete and powerful musical achievements ever created. Its perfection is revealed in an unprecedented intensity and in the surprising evolution that passed between its initial and final production: it was the thirty years that forever revolutionized the experience with music. "

The reception of criticism for the recording was extremely favourable. The BBC Music Magazine , for example, highlights the intense interpretation of the group: "(This integral) is a great achievement and even though the quartet back to record these works, will always remain a memorable collection."