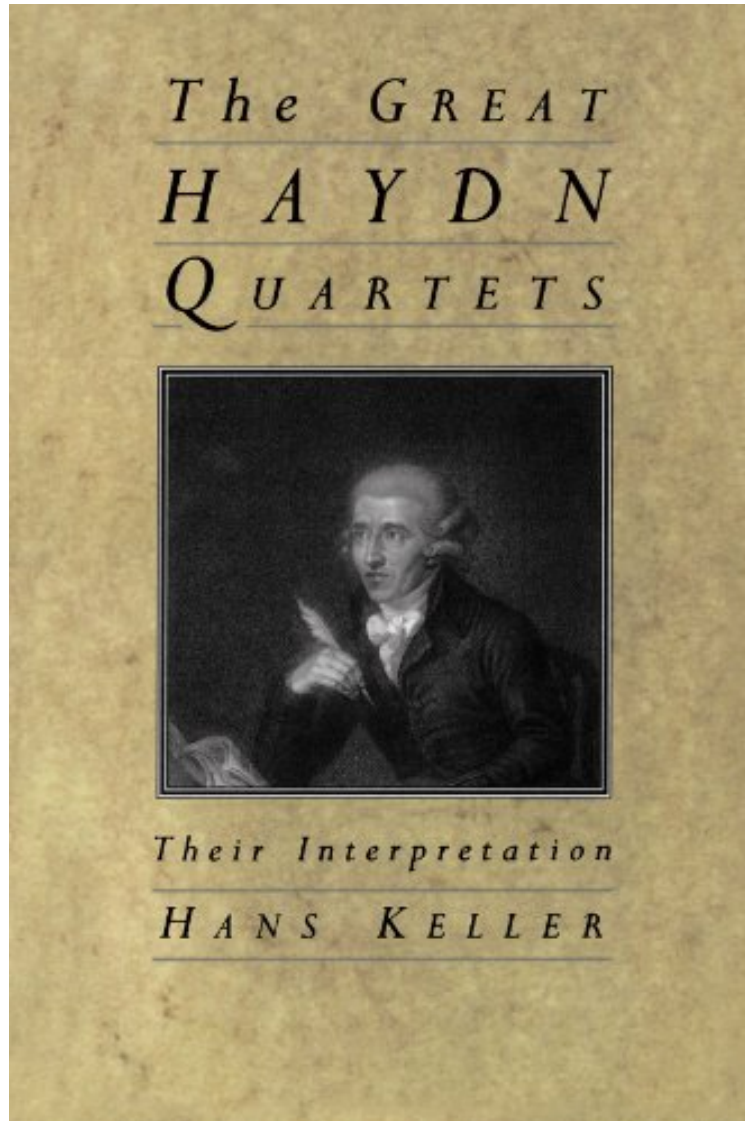


[Ebook free] The Great Haydn Quartets: Their Interpretation

The Great Haydn Quartets: Their Interpretation

Hans Keller

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Hans Keller : The Great Haydn Quartets: Their Interpretation before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Haydn Quartets: Their Interpretation:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Center and the Summit By Roochak Of the 79 string quartets in the Kodaly Quartet's excellent Naxos box set, Hans Keller argues that 45 of these are master quartets -- works in which Haydn set standards of originality, expressiveness, and symphonic thought that Mozart and Beethoven themselves were challenged to match. The book is Keller's testy, highly informative guide to the interpretation of the

"45," addressed to players of course, but the door is open to "mere listeners" as long as we can keep up with his arguments. It's a fascinating book for both players and failed violinists like myself, and in a contentious introduction, Keller's cartography of the great quartet composers, with Haydn as center and summit, is endlessly re-readable: after Haydn, there was Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn...and then almost nothing for the rest of the 19th century. 20th century quartet writing belongs to Schoenberg, Hindemith, Britten (it is implied), and Bartok (grudgingly); Shostakovich, of whose works Keller was certainly aware, isn't mentioned. 22 of 24 people found the following review helpful. One of the world's great musical books--do buy it! By anon As a professional violinist with the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields I can assure you that an enormous amount of wisdom, insight and brilliant musical writing is crammed into this book. If you want to know what insightful musical writing can be buy this tome! 10 of 26 people found the following review helpful. Virtually worthless for the listener By Stuart Bloom Perhaps if you are a performer there might be something worthwhile in this book. But as a guide to listening to and comprehending the Haydn quartets, this book is virtually worthless. Once you get past the author's self-congratulatory breast-beating and his unsupported opinions about how few ensembles can play these pieces well (always excepting, of course, ensembles trained by the author), there's precious little left.

Of the few composers who possessed an intrinsic mastery of the string quartet, Haydn was the first and, Hans Keller argues, the greatest. This seminal study of forty-five quartets by one of the leading music critics of his day provides an extraordinarily deep understanding of Haydn's methods and genius.

From Library Journal This book offers analyses of 45 of Haydn's 60-odd string quartets with the aim of providing interpretive clues for performers. The author, an Austrian-born music critic who lived in England from 1938 until his death last year, had a life-long involvement with the string quartet as both player and teacher. Although Keller's scholarly credentials are not in question, many of his opinions and analytical remarks are both patronizing and debatable, as in the remark "it is impossible for a composer, however great, to write an intrinsic string quartet if he is not himself a quartet player." There are some worthwhile remarks on tempo, texture, articulation, and the like, but they tend to be overwhelmed by Keller's convoluted, discursive prose style. Further, much of the interpretive "advice" e.g., injunctions to play in tune is insultingly elementary. Susan Kagan, Music Dept., Hunter Coll., CUNY Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A work of authority and clarity verging on genius. It is a classic."--George Steiner