

SPENCER
DIGITAL AUDIO
NGS NNRR

ELGAR
PIANO QUINTET IN A MINOR, OP. 84

ETHEL HOBDAY, PIANO
THE SPENCER DYKE QUARTET

SPENCER DYKE
ERNEST TOMLINSON
EDWIN QUAIFFÉ
B. PATTERSON PARKER

PRISTINE
AUDIO
XR
GRAMOPHONE

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | 1st mvt. - Moderato - Allegro | 13:49 |
| 2 | 2nd mvt. - Adagio | 11:02 |
| 3 | 3rd mvt. - Andante - Allegro | 10:08 |

Recorded in Spring 1926, issued as NGS NN, OO, PP, QQ, RR
Transfer made in 2006, XR Restoration in 2008 by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio
Total duration: 34:59 ©2008 Pristine Audio

SKRL Pristine Audio, Le Bourg, 24610 St. Méard de Gurçon, France - Tel. +33 (0)5 53 82 18 57 - Internet: www.pristineclassical.com

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The **Quintet in A minor for Piano and String Quartet, Op 84** is a chamber work by Edward Elgar.

He worked on the Quintet and two other major chamber pieces in the summer of 1918 while staying at Brinkwells in Sussex. W H Reed considered that all three were 'influenced by the quiet and peaceful surroundings during that wonderful summer'.

The Quintet was first performed on 21 May 1919, by the pianist William Murdoch, the violinists Albert Sammons and W H Reed, the violist Raymond Jeremy and the cellist Felix Salmond. These players included some of the composer's musical confidantes - Reed worked with him on several pieces and Salmond worked on the Cello Concerto with him. Albert Sammons later made the first complete recording of the Violin Concerto.

The work is dedicated to Ernest Newman, music critic of The Manchester Guardian.

There are three movements:

Moderato - Allegro

Adagio

Andante - Allegro

In performance, the first movement takes about 14 minutes, the adagio a little under 12, and the last movement a little over 10, making this the longest of Elgar's chamber works.

His wife's first reaction on hearing the three chamber works was 'E. writing wonderful new music', and more than fifty years later The Gramophone agreed: 'Alice Elgar was quite right: it is a new urgency, pointed and refined by the discipline of writing chamber music, a discipline that clearly rejuvenated Elgar's imagination. It is big chamber music, with at times an almost orchestral sonority to it.'

The Quintet was first recorded by Harriet Cohen and the Stratton Quartet at the beginning of October 1933, immediately before the composer became seriously ill. Test pressings were rushed to Elgar's bedside; the pleasure he gained from them inspiring Fred Gaisberg to record the Quartet as a Christmas present to the ailing composer.

The work took some years to establish itself in the repertoire, but in recent years it has been performed and recorded many times.

Notes from Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piano_Quintet_in_A_minor_\(Elgar\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piano_Quintet_in_A_minor_(Elgar))

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