

Tchaikovsky: String Quartet no.1  
Shostakovich: Prelude and Fugue,  
nos.1 and 15; String Quartet no.8

Lafayette String Quartet

DORIAN RECORDINGS DOR 90163



Five stars for the Lafayette foursome

This recording, with its superbly rich acoustic, presents the young players (all women) of the Lafayette String Quartet in altogether more favourable light than did the concert I heard them give at New York's Frick Collection a year or so ago. Their's is an essentially intuitive approach, incorporating a warm, lush, soft-grained overall sonority and a convincing (in this music) mixture of rigour and plasticity. But when, as in the Allegro molto second movement of the Shostakovich Eighth Quartet, brilliance and ferocity are required, these performers can also summon those commodities convincingly. The transcriptions of the two Preludes and Fugues from the composer's op.87 for solo piano are by Rostislav Dubinsky and work as well as the originals. The more overtly songful and romantic Tchaikovsky (the First Quartet, op.11 in D major – the one with the popular Andante cantabile second movement) is recreated with an earnest sensuality without being in any way over done. Dorian's engineering (produced in the Troy, New York Savings Bank Music Hall) is of demonstration class. A superb release.

HARRIS GOLDSMITH