

## theStrad

RECOMMENDS...



### RHYTHM & TEXTURE

**RAVEL** String Quartet in F major

**GERSHWIN** Lullaby **LAVISTA** Reflejos de la noche **ALVAREZ** Metro Chabacano

**GOLIJOV** Tenebrae

### Brodsky Quartet

ORCHID CLASSICS ORC 100012



True to the album's title, the Brodskys explore the expressive parameters and sonic potentialities of Ravel's glorious

String Quartet to an unrivalled degree. Their micro-inflected playing reveals layers of expression closed to traditional readings in the manner of the Italian (Philips) and Melos (Deutsche Grammophon) quartets. So bracingly free and inventive is this playing, and so unlike any other, that it has an almost narcotising effect on the

listener. The slow movement in particular explores remote areas of the human psyche in a way that is hauntingly reminiscent of Schoenberg's Expressionist masterworks. In its one very special way, this is just as spellbinding and revelatory as the Zehetmair's Schumann disc for ECM. After hearing this, all else is gaslight.

The sense of an ensemble stepping gently outside the tradition of which they are consummate masters is enhanced by a reading of Gershwin's *Lullaby* in which the various layers melt into one another with a sultry flexibility completely free of bar-line tyranny. Add to this ear-tweakingly evocative performances of Lavista's *Reflejos de la noche* (more spooky than a whole series of *Most Haunted Live*), Alvarez's rhythmically seductive *Metro Chabacano* and Golijov's celestial *Tenebrae*, all captured in atmospherically tactile sound, and you have one of the string quartet discs of 2010.

JULIAN HAYLOCK



Stepping gently outside the tradition: the Brodsky Quartet