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Liner notes in English, French, German

**Quartetto Italiano - Prima la musica
The Complete Warner Recordings (14 CD)**

Product cover blurb

“The finest string quartet, unquestionably, that our century has known.” In 1951, when the Quartetto Italiano first visited the USA, composer Virgil Thomson’s was enthused: “Perfection is the only word to describe this playing.” The quartet’s members, who had met while studying in Siena, made their ensemble debut in 1945. They went on to enthral audiences around the world with interpretations of proverbial beauty, insight and architectural elegance. In this collection, presenting their entire Warner Classics discography, their subtle mastery is as evident in essential Austro-German repertoire as in Italian music spanning five centuries and works by Debussy, Ravel, Milhaud, Prokofiev and Stravinsky. Complementing the catalogue they built between 1953 and 1959 is their very first recording, made in 1946 when they were still known as the Nuovo Quartetto Italiano. The collection, entirely remastered, features a number of recordings appearing on CD for the first time.

Key points

#1	<p>This box constitutes the first comprehensive CD edition of the Quartetto Italiano's Columbia and Telefunken output.</p> <p>This makes their entire studio career available on CD now, split as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1946 Durium Telefunken (included here)- 1947-1953 Decca (Universal)- 1953-1959 Columbia (included here)- 1960-1980 Philips & DG (Universal)
#2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- In the summer of 1945 Paolo Borciani (1922-1985), Elisa Pegreffi (1922-2016), Lionello Forzanti (1913-2009) and Franco Rossi (1921-2006) founded the Nuovo Quartetto Italiano – to avoid confusion with a former one (Remy Principe, Ettore Gandini, Giuseppe Matteucci Luigi Chiarappa) still active at that time.- The first recital was given in Carpi on 12 November 1945 followed by one in Reggio Emilia and in December they reached Milan, where a critic wrote: “One may, without any uncertainty, speak of an important revelation in the field of chamber music.”- In March 1946 they made their first 78rpm recording – included in the box. In late 1946 the violist Lonello Forzanti left the quartet to become a conductor in the US. He was replaced by Piero Farulli (1920-2012).- The years 1947 and 1948 saw them tour in Austria, Britain, Spain, France, Germany and Holland, gaining glowing reviews of which Bernard Gavoty's was typical: “The Nuovo Quartetto Italiano made a sensational debut in Paris, and for once the word is not too strong. I have never seen such simultaneity of attack, a like transparency of sound, a similar devotion to the common cause.”- In 1949 at the Salzburg Festival, they ran through Brahms's F minor Quintet with Furtwängler at the piano and were bowled over by his approach. “Before, we paid no attention to anything other than respect for the score. But there is nothing to be done, in the interpretation there are human reasons that disregard the metronomic indications. [...] And so we began to acquire certain spacious sounds, certain great breaths” Farulli said.- 1951: now famous enough, they symbolically dropped the ‘Nuovo’.- Tour in the US: Virgil Thomson wrote in the <i>New York Herald Tribune</i>: “the finest string quartet, unquestionably, that our century has known. Perfection is the only word to describe this playing, perfection of a kind and degree that no quartet lover living, and no quartet player, has heard before.”- Until their disbandment in 1980 they still had four decades during which they toured farther and farther afield, accumulated more accolades and became living legends to younger players.
#3	<p>The whole content has been newly remastered, the large majority in 192Hz/24bit and from original tapes CD1 (6-13), CD2-11, CD13-14</p> <p>Recordings appearing on CD for the first time: CD 2 Mozart Quartets Nos. 14 & 15 CD 3 Beethoven Quartet No. 13 CD 5 Brahms Quartet No. 3 CD 12 Gabrieli Due canzoni per sonar a quattro, Marini Balletto primo a tre Neri Sonata quinta a quattro, Vivaldi Sonata a quattro “Al Santo Sepolcro” CD 13 Schumann String Quartet in A</p>

**Quartetto Italiano - Prima la musica
The Complete Warner Recordings (14 CD)**

Tracklist on attached document

CD 1 71.19

Claude Debussy 1862-1918

String Quartet in G minor, Op. 10, CD 91, L. 85

- 1 I. Animé et très décidé 5.58
- 2 II. Assez vif et bien rythmé 3.28
- 3 III. Andantino (Douxement expressif) 8.03
- 4 IV. Très modéré – Très animé 7.03

Leonardo Vinci 1690-1730 (tr. Guido Gerrini)

5 12 Soli per violino e arpicordo: Gavotta 3.19

Luigi Boccherini 1743-1805

String Quartet in A major, Op. 39 No. 8, G.213

- 6 I. Allegro moderato 8.19
- 7 II. Minuetto e Trio 3.40
- 8 III. Grave 5.38
- 9 IV. Allegro giusto 5.11

String Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 58 No. 2, G.243

- 10 I. Allegretto lento 7.04
- 11 II. Minuetto (Allegro) e trio 4.06
- 12 III. Larghetto malinconico 4.42
- 13 IV. Allegro vivo assai – Finale 4.43

Nuovo Quartetto Italiano (1-5)

Paolo Borciani *violin I*, **Elisa Pegreff** *violin II*, **Lionello Forzanti** *viola*, **Franco Rossi** *cello*

Quartetto Italiano (6-13)

Paolo Borciani *violin I*, **Elisa Pegreff** *violin II*, **Piero Farulli** *viola*, **Franco Rossi** *cello*

Recording: 20.III.1946 (1-5), 1 (10-13) & 2-3 (6-9) VII.1953, Milan · MONO

First release as: Telefunken Italia E 9102-5 (1-5), Columbia 33QCX 10024/33CX 1101 (6-13)

Matrix: 1308/1315 (1-5), XBX 121-122 (6-13)

0190296739200 · P 1946 (1-5) & P 1953 (6-13) /Remastered 2021 Parlophone Records Limited

Remastered from original tapes by Art & Son Studio, Annecy (6-13)

CD 2 58.35

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756-1791

String Quartet No. 14 in G major, KV 387

- 1 I. Allegro vivace assai 7.23
- 2 II. Allegretto 8.37
- 3 III. Andante cantabile 7.50
- 4 IV. Molto allegro 6.23

String Quartet No. 15 in D minor, KV 421

- 5 I. Allegro moderato 7.26
- 6 II. Andante 5.53
- 7 III. Allegretto 4.18
- 8 IV. Allegretto ma non troppo 10.42

Quartetto Italiano

Paolo Borciani *violin I*, **Elisa Pegreffi** *violin II*, **Piero Farulli** *viola*, **Franco Rossi** *cello*

PREMIERE ON CD

Recording: 4-6 (1-4) & 3-4 (5-8) VII.1953, Milan · MONO

First release as: Columbia 33QCX 10025/33CX 1102

Matrix: XBX 1119-XBX 120

0190296739200 · P 1953/Remastered 2021 Parlophone Records Limited

Remastered from original tapes by Art & Son Studio, Annecy

CD 3 39.51

Ludwig van Beethoven 1770-1827

String Quartet No. 13 in B-flat major, Op. 130

1 I. Adagio ma non troppo – Allegro 10.01

2 II. Presto 2.15

3 III. Andante con moto, ma non troppo. Poco scherzoso 7.35

4 IV. Alla danza tedesca. Allegro assai 3.13

5 V. Cavatina. Adagio molto espressivo 7.00

6 VI. Finale. Allegro 9.46

Quartetto Italiano

Paolo Borciani *violin I*, **Elisa Pegreffi** *violin II*, **Piero Farulli** *viola*, **Franco Rossi** *cello*

PREMIERE ON CD

Recording: 7-9 VII.1953, Milan · MONO

First release as: Columbia 33QCX 10026/33CX 1103

Matrix: XBX 117/118

0190296739200 · P 1953/Remastered 2020 Parlophone Records Limited

Remastered from original tapes by Art & Son Studio, Annecy

CD 4 43.08

Claude Debussy 1862-1918

String Quartet in G minor, Op. 10, CD 91, L. 85

1 I. Animé et très décidé 6.44

2 II. Assez vif et bien rythmé 3.54

3 III. Andantino (Douxment expressif) 8.46

4 IV. Très modéré – Très animé 7.43

Darius Milhaud 1892-1974

String Quartet No. 12, Op. 252 (1945)

5 I. Modéré 4.43

6 II. Lent 7.03

7 III. Avec entrain 4.11

Quartetto Italiano

Paolo Borciani *violin I*, **Elisa Pegreffi** *violin II*, **Piero Farulli** *viola*, **Franco Rossi** *cello*

Recording: 12.II.1954, Milan · MONO

First release as: Columbia 33QCX 10054/33CX 1155

Matrix: XBX 113-XBX 114

0190296739200 · P 1954/Remastered 2021 Parlophone Records Limited

Remastered from original tapes by Art & Son Studio, Annecy

CD 5 37.46

Johannes Brahms 1833-1897

String Quartet No. 3 in B-flat major, Op. 67

- 1 I. Vivace 8.23
- 2 II. Andante 8.49
- 3 III. Agitato (Allegretto non troppo) – Trio – Coda 9.01
- 4 IV. Poco allegretto con variazioni – Doppio movimento 11.31

Quartetto Italiano

Paolo Borciani *violin I*, **Elisa Pegreff** *violin II*, **Piero Farulli** *viola*, **Franco Rossi** *cello*

PREMIERE ON CD

Recording: 1-7.VII.1954, Milan · MONO

First release as: Columbia 33QCX 10113/33CX 1244

Matrix: XBX 153-XBX 154

0190296739200 · P 1955/Remastered 2021 Parlophone Records Limited

Remastered from original tapes by Art & Son Studio, Annecy

CD 6 38.31

Roman Hoffstetter 1742-1815 (previously attributed to Joseph Haydn)

String Quartet in F major “Serenaden-Quartett”, Op. 3 No. 5, Hob. III:17

- 1 I. Presto 4.28
- 2 II. Andante cantabile 5.42
- 3 III. Minuetto 3.29
- 4 IV. Scherzando 3.14

Joseph Haydn 1732-1809

Quartet in D minor “Quinten-Quartett”, Op. 76 No. 2, Hob. III:76

- 5 I. Allegro 7.05
- 6 II. Andante o piuttosto allegretto 5.47
- 7 III. Minuetto 4.17
- 8 IV. Vivace assai 4.25

Quartetto Italiano

Paolo Borciani *violin I*, **Elisa Pegreff** *violin II*, **Piero Farulli** *viola*, **Franco Rossi** *cello*

Recording: 1-7.VII.1954, Milan · MONO

First release as: Columbia 33QCX 10114/33CX 1230

Matrix: XBX 155-XBX 156

0190296739200 · P 1955/Remastered 2021 Parlophone Records Limited

Remastered from original tapes by Art & Son Studio, Annecy

CD 7 38.08

Sergei Prokofiev 1891-1953

String Quartet No. 2, Op. 92

- 1 I. Allegro sostenuto 6.38
- 2 II. Adagio 7.43
- 3 III. Allegro 8.04

Gian Francesco Malipiero 1882-1973

String Quartet No. 4

- 4 I. Allegro – – 8.39

5 II. Allegro – 7.01

Quartetto Italiano

Paolo Borciani *violin I*, **Elisa Pegreffi** *violin II*, **Piero Farulli** *viola*, **Franco Rossi** *cello*

Recording: 3.VIII.1955, Milan · MONO

First release as: Columbia 33QCX 10145/33CX 1295

Matrix: XBX 320-XBX 321

0190296739200 · P 1956/Remastered 2021 Parlophone Records Limited

Remastered from original tapes by Art & Son Studio, Annecy

CD 8 44.39

Joseph Haydn 1732-1809

String Quartet in C major “Vogel“, Op. 33 No. 3, Hob. III:39

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| 1 I. Allegro moderato | 7.01 |
| 2 II. Scherzo e Trio | 3.04 |
| 3 III. Adagio | 7.07 |
| 4 IV. Finale. Rondo. Presto | 2.59 |

String Quartet in B-flat major “Sonnenaufgang“, Op. 76 No. 4, Hob. III:78

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| 5 I. Allegro con spirito | 8.10 |
| 6 II. Adagio | 6.44 |
| 7 III. Minuetto | 5.02 |
| 8 IV. Allegro ma non troppo | 4.28 |

Quartetto Italiano

Paolo Borciani *violin I*, **Elisa Pegreffi** *violin II*, **Piero Farulli** *viola*, **Franco Rossi** *cello*

Recording: 3.VIII.1955, Milan · MONO

First release as: Columbia 33QCX 10164/33CX 1383

Matrix: XBX 364-XBX 365

0190296739200 · P 1956/Remastered 2021 Parlophone Records Limited

Remastered from original tapes by Art & Son Studio, Annecy

CD 9 44.07

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756-1791

String Quartet No. 17 in B-flat major “La chasse“, KV 458

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| 1 I. Allegro vivace assai | 8.31 |
| 2 II. Menuetto. Trio moderato | 4.43 |
| 3 III. Adagio | 7.52 |
| 4 IV. Allegro assai | 4.46 |

Franz Schubert 1797-1828

String Quartet No. 2 in C major, D 32

- | | |
|------------------------|------|
| 5 I. Presto | 3.32 |
| 6 II. Andante | 5.33 |
| 7 III. Menuetto e Trio | 3.11 |
| 8 IV. Allegro | 5.55 |

Quartetto Italiano

Paolo Borciani *violin I*, **Elisa Pegreffi** *violin II*, **Piero Farulli** *viola*, **Franco Rossi** *cello*

Recording: 21 (1-4) & 23 (5-8), XI.1955, Milan · MONO
First release as: Columbia 33QCX 10199/33CX 1367
Matrix: XBX 366- XBX 367
0190296739200 · P 1956/Remastered 2021 Parlophone Records Limited
Remastered from original tapes by Art & Son Studio, Annecy

CD 10 35.41

Ludwig van Beethoven 1770-1827

String Quartet No. 10 in E-flat major “Harp”, Op. 74

- 1 I. Poco adagio - Allegro 10.36
- 2 II. Adagio, ma non troppo 11.28
- 3 III. Presto 6.17
- 4 IV. Allegretto con variazioni 7.16

Quartetto Italiano

Paolo Borciani *violin I*, **Elisa Pegreffi** *violin II*, **Piero Farulli** *viola*, **Franco Rossi** *cello*

Recording: 30.I.1956, Basilica di Sant'Eufemia, Milan · MONO
First release as: Columbia 33QCX 10209/33CX 1396
Matrix: XBX 376-XBX 377
0190296739200 · P 1956/Remastered 2020 Parlophone Records Limited
Remastered from original tapes by Art & Son Studio, Annecy

CD 11 44.37

Baldassare Galuppi 1706-1785

Concerto a quattro No. 1 in G minor

- 1 I. Grave e Adagio 3.49
- 2 II. Spiritoso 4.16
- 3 III. Allegro 5.08

Luigi Boccherini 1743-1805

String Quartet in G major “La Tiranna Spagnola”, Op. 44 No. 4, G.223

- 4 I. Presto 4.48
- 5 II. Tempo di Minuetto 5.43

Giuseppe Maria Cambini 1746-1825

String Quartet in G minor

- 6 I. Allegro affettuoso 8.25
- 7 II. Adagio 6.36
- 8 III. Presto 5.48

Quartetto Italiano

Paolo Borciani *violin I*, **Elisa Pegreffi** *violin II*, **Piero Farulli** *viola*, **Franco Rossi** *cello*

Recording: VII.1956, Milan · MONO
First release as: Columbia 33QCX 10219/33CX 1408
Matrix: XBX 394-XBX 395
0190296739200 · P 1957/Remastered 2021 Parlophone Records Limited
Remastered from original tapes by Art & Son Studio, Annecy

CD 12 39.49

Giovanni Gabrieli 1557-1612

Due canzoni per sonar a quattro

- 1 I. Canzon prima "La Spiritata", Ch.186 3.37
- 2 IV. Canzon quarta, Ch.189 2.39

Biagio Marini 1594-1663

Balletto primo a tre, Op. 22 No. 1

- 3 I. Entrata 2.33
- 4 II. Gagliarda 1.52
- 5 III. Corrente 1.36
- 6 IV. Commiato 1.04

Massimiliano Neri c.1618-c.1670

7 Sonata quinta a quattro, Op. 2 No. 5 9.35

Giovanni Battista Vitali 1632-1692

8 Capriccio in F major 5.06

Alessandro Scarlatti 1660-1725

Sonata a quattro No. 4 in D minor

- 9 I. Allegro 2.21
- 10 II. Grave 2.03
- 11 III. Allegro 1.18
- 12 IV. Minuetto 0.54

Antonio Vivaldi 1678-1741

Sonata a quattro in E-flat major "Al Santo Sepolcro", RV 130

- 13 I. Largo molto 3.01
- 14 II. Allegro ma poco 2.05

Quartetto Italiano

Paolo Borciani *violin I*, **Elisa Pegreff** *violin II*, **Piero Farulli** *viola*, **Franco Rossi** *cello*

PREMIERE ON CD (1-7, 13-14)

Recording: XI.1956, Milan · MONO

First release as: Columbia 33QCX 10236/33CX 1430

Matrix: XBX 406-XBX 407

0190296739200 · P 1957/Remastered 2021 Parlophone Records Limited

CD 13 39.41

Robert Schumann 1810-1856

String Quartet in A major, Op. 41 No. 3

- 1 I. Andante espressivo – Allegro molto moderato 8.30
- 2 II. Assai agitato 8.10
- 3 III. Adagio molto 8.45
- 4 IV. Allegro molto vivace 7.46

Igor Stravinsky 1882-1971

3 Pieces for String Quartet (1914)

- 5 No. 1 0.59

6 No. 2 2.01

7 No. 3 3.27

Quartetto Italiano

Paolo Borciani *violin I*, **Elisa Pegreff** *violin II*, **Piero Farulli** *viola*, **Franco Rossi** *cello*

PREMIERE ON CD (1-4)

Recording: 1959, Milan · STEREO

First release as: Columbia 33QCX 10380/33CX 1722

Matrix: XBX 1001-1002

0190296739200 · P 1960/Remastered 2021 Parlophone Records Limited

Remastered from original tapes by Art & Son Studio, Annecy

CD 14 46.13

Maurice Ravel 1875-1937

String Quartet in F major, M. 35

1 I. Allegro moderato: très doux 9.09

2 II. Assez vif: très rythmé 6.51

3 III. Très lent 9.09

4 IV. Vif et agité 5.52

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756-1791

String Quartet No. 3 in G major, KV 156 (KV 134/b)

5 I. Presto 3.22

6 II. Adagio 7.20

7 III. Tempo di Menuetto 4.25

Quartetto Italiano

Paolo Borciani *violin I*, **Elisa Pegreff** *violin II*, **Piero Farulli** *viola*, **Franco Rossi** *cello*

Recording: 1959, Milan · STEREO

First release as: Columbia 33QCX 10381/33CX 1727

Matrix: XBX 486-XBX 487

0190296739200 · P 1960/Remastered 2021 Parlophone Records Limited

Remastered from original tapes by Art & Son Studio, Annecy