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## TANEYEV

*Piano Quintet in D major Op 51, Piano Quintet in G minor Op 30*

Goldner String Quartet, Piers Lane

HYPERION CDA67965

By *Robert Stove* on Jan 23, 2014 (2 days ago) filed under *Classical Music* | [Comment Now](#)

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### Verdict



### Info

Supplier:  
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### Keywords

Whilst neither of the works on this disc is a world premiere, both will represent unknown territory to most people (as they certainly did to the present reviewer). Sergei Taneyev and Anton Arensky – born in, respectively, 1856 and 1861 – belonged to an in-between generation of Russian music, neither old enough to be coeval with Tchaikovsky, nor young enough to be colleagues of Rachmaninov and Scriabin. Arensky did take lessons from Rimsky-Korsakov (who spoke of him latterly with undisguised contempt) but owed much more to Tchaikovsky's example. His variations on Tchaikovsky's song Christ Had A Garden once enjoyed considerable celebrity as a Beecham-style lollipop. His Piano Quintet dates from 1900, and it owes its biggest stylistic debt to Schumann, whom it evokes in its coursing ebullience and tendency to repetitive rhythms. At times Mendelssohn and Dvořák are intimated too. Charm and good humour prevail, even the slower sections being pensive rather than conspicuously sad. Not the most profound, original, or exotic achievement, then, but a

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piers lane, goldner  
string quartet, taneyev,  
arensky, piano quintet

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### Catalog

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HYPERION CDA67965

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### Composer

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Taneyev

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### Performers

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Goldner String Quartet ,  
Piers Lane

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### Works

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Piano Quintet in D  
major Op 51, Piano  
Quintet in G minor Op  
30

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welcome adjunct to the slender corpus of worthwhile pieces for this instrumental combination. It will inspire renewed sorrow that Arensky died (from tuberculosis aggravated by booze) when only 44 years of age. Taneyev's 1911 quintet shares with the Arensky a four-movement structure, yet there the resemblance ends. It plays for threequarters of an hour, its first movement alone lasting nearly 20 minutes, almost as long as the Arensky in its entirety. Forget all the reference-book caricatures of Taneyev as dry, boring theorist. He takes listeners on one hell of a wild ride through mountainous, often desolate landscapes haunted by Wagner, Franck, Reger (whose idiom is implied in Taneyev's ostinato-laden penultimate movement) and occasionally Strauss (Elektra had burst on the world just two years earlier). Such a rugged score would impress even via indifferent playing, but the Australian performers captured here flamboyantly cope with everything Taneyev throws at them. They blend superb technical knowhow with white-knuckled fervour. The frequently tumultuous piano figuration never overwhelms the strings, as in lesser hands it could easily do. In fact, at a few moments the piano seems slightly recessed: a venial flaw. For evidence that – whatever most concert promoters may imagine – valuable Russian chamber music did not begin and end with Shostakovich's string quartets, look no further than this excellent CD.

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### What's On

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#### EVENT FINDER

Keyword:

State:

Region:

- (Birmingham Conservatoire Chamber Choir)
- Debussy, Chopin, Bach: Preludes Book II, Three Mazurkas, Partita No 6 (Woodward)
- Schoenberg, Schubert: String Quintet, Verklärte Nacht (Jansen, Brovtsyn, Rysanov, Grosz, Thedeem, Maintz)
- Mendelssohn: Symphony No 3 and No 4 (Brüggen)

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When:

SEARCH

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

#### TIDAL RHYTHMS AT THE BOWL - A celebration of coastal and island cultures

FROM  
Jan  
26

*Sidney Myer Music Bowl, Melbourne: City & inner suburbs (VIC)*

#### Tim Minchin versus the Orchestras - Round II

FROM  
Jan  
28

*Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane: City & inner suburbs (QLD)*

#### Melbourne Symphony Orchestra: Doctor Who

FROM  
Jan  
31

*The Plenary, Melbourne: City & inner suburbs (VIC)*

#### JMC Academy Open Day

FROM  
Jan  
31

*JMC Academy Sydney Campus, Sydney: City & inner suburbs (NSW)*

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