

# Korngold: String Sextet, Piano Quintet – review

Doric String Quartet etc  
(Chandos)



**Fiona Maddocks**  
The Observer, Sunday 26 February 2012

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**Erich Wolfgang  
Korngold**  
**Korngold: Piano  
Quintet/ String  
Sextet (Chandos:  
CHAN 10707)**

None  
Chandos

After their highly praised recordings of the three quartets by Erich Wolfgang Korngold (1897-1957), the Dorics have expanded forces to perform the composer's two voluptuous early chamber works, written decades before the Hollywood film scores that would make this Austro-Hungarian composer famous. The String Sextet Op 10 (in which the Doric Quartet are joined by Jennifer Stumm, viola, and Bartholomew Lafollette, cello) was completed during the first world war, when Korngold was writing the opera *Violanta*. The works occupy a similarly lyrical, melancholy and highly chromatic sound world. The Piano Quintet (with Kathryn Stott) dates from slightly later and, with late Romantic echoes of Elgar and Rachmaninov, revolves round an expansive adagio consisting of nine free variations. The performances are superb.