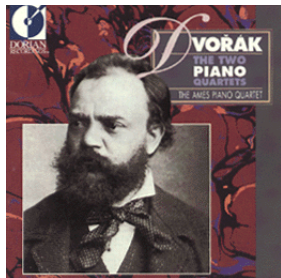


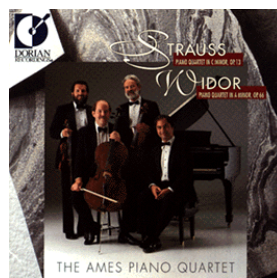
Ames Piano Quartet CDs



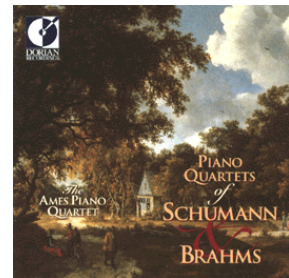
1986 (Dorian)



1987 (Dorian)



1989 (Dorian)



1990 (Dorian)



1991 (Dorian)



2000 (Dorian)



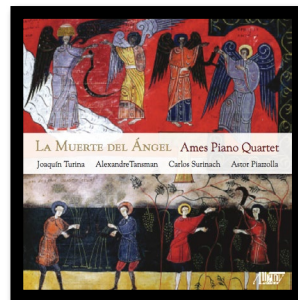
2005 (Albany)



2006 (Dorian/Sono Luminus)



2007 (2 CD set, Albany)



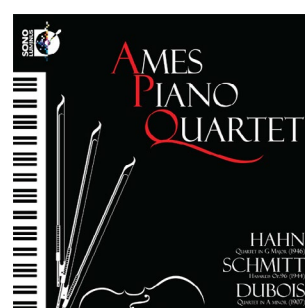
2008 (Albany)



2009 (7 CD re-release, Dorian)



2011 (Sono Luminus)



2012 (Sono Luminus)

Reviews of recordings by the Amara Quartet's immediate predecessor, the Ames Piano Quartet

Late Romantic French album

This marvelously lush album by the Ames Piano Quartet is a joyous CD for the listener. Unfailingly romantic and expressive, it is an exemplary recital of chamber music. These musicians are truly expressive, creating a dreamy musical atmosphere.

Classic album

These are four colleagues coming together for one purpose -- to make great music.

While there are about 10 other performances of this version of the Beethoven presently in print, including such formidable competitors as the Nash Ensemble and the freelance frequent foursome of Isaac Stern, Jaime Laredo, Yo-Yo Ma, and Emmanuel Ax, this gorgeous rendition can hold its own against any of them.

Spanish album

The whole program is exceptionally well performed by the Ames Piano Quartet, whose members have been playing together for over 30 years. Their tight ensemble and rhythmic inflection show a true understanding of the Spanish idiom.

British album

Four of the six British piano quartets on this recent two disc set from Albany have been recorded before, but not in performances as good as these. The Ames Piano Quartet plays all of these to perfection and the recorded sound is very good. This is one of the most interesting chamber music releases to appear in some time.

I cannot praise highly enough the playing of The Ames Piano Quartet, whose work here is of the highest order. I had admired their earlier set of the Fauré piano quartets but with this set I realize I need to seek out their other recordings; this is a world-class ensemble.

Time now to thank these American players specifically. The Ames Quartet are a first-class ensemble just as executants before we come to their interpretations. They show understanding and insight into the various styles they have to put across to us, and where lyric warmth is called for, particularly in Mackenzie's piece, their tone is a joy to listen to. Power when called for is effortless and unforced, tempi seem just, and affectations and mannerisms are thankfully absent.

A feast for fans of English twentieth century composers, this collection of British piano quartets by the Ames Piano Quartet is a marvel and a wonder, a marvel that an ensemble from Iowa can so magnificently capture the quintessentially English quality of the music and a wonder that so much first-rate chamber music remains so far beyond the range of the standard repertoire.

Czech album

Great Czech piano quartet performances come from Iowa, Ames, IA, to be precise, home of Iowa State University where the Ames Piano Quartet is the chamber music ensemble-in-residence. The Ames Piano Quartet performs every work with amazing strength and total dedication. With a tight but flexible ensemble, strong but agile technique, and big, passionate tone, the Ames has what these works need to succeed.