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Classical

Pacifica Quartet

Elliott Carter

Naxos

Carter, the perennial survivor, won't reach his centenary until December. But why wait to celebrate? The Pacificas launch a complete cycle of his string quartets with the imposing First (a breakthrough in metrical complexity) paired with the airier, swifter Fifth. Naxos do composer and musicians proud, with clear sound and a good spatial spread — essential for catching the tumbling notes. Music with heart as well as a brain; and a great Naxos bargain.

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