

'Furlana' in no.17, the two Allegros of no.15 and the 'Giga' of the A minor Sonata, the extended variation movement of which he dispatches with thought, dexterity and aplomb. The church recording, though, is reverberant to the extreme and some percussive extraneous noises remain, along with a serious editing error about two minutes into the Largo of no.4.

ROBIN STOWELL

**ZELEŃSKI** Piano Quartet  
in C minor op.61  
**ZARĘBSKI** Piano Quintet  
in G minor op.34<sup>1</sup>  
**Szymanowski Quartet,**  
**Jonathan Plowright (piano)**<sup>1</sup>  
HYPERION CDA 67905

### Authoritative performances of rare Polish chamber music



Wladyslaw Żeleński and Juliusz Zarębski are unlikely to be familiar names,

but on the evidence of this CD perhaps they should be. Żeleński seems to have written a lot of music in his long life – he was born in 1837 and died in 1921 – but most of it has sadly been lost. Much of his C minor Quartet (the date of which has also been lost) has an ecstatic sweep to it, a constant flow of melody played with a warm, rich sound and finely crafted lines by the three Szymanowski players, with Jonathan Plowright an elegant partner. Cellist Marcin Sieniawski gives a gently

moving account of the second-movement Romanza's simple and affecting opening melody, and together they produce light and witty playing in the third-movement Intermezzo: half Mendelssohn, half mazurka.

Zarębski (1854–85) was a famous pianist in his day, a one-time pupil of Liszt.

### Together they produce light and witty playing

His Piano Quintet is a fine work, a powerful piece of complex symphonic strength. Its many subtleties of character and shifting musical currents are finely elucidated by these artists, with playing of authority and great beauty. The Adagio develops from its mysterious opening into a captivating poem, and the scherzo flows by as an exuberant dance. The recording is warm and spacious.

TIM HOMFRAY

