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strings gnashing their bows col legno). Clifford Curzon is a pianist who always rises to the occasion. The occasion this time is the Mozart Piano Quartets in G Minor and E Flat Major (Decca LXT 2772). Mr. Curzon and members of the Amadeus Quartet recreate this slender music with infinite charm. Rudolf Serkin and members of the Busch Quartet playing the Brahms Piano Quartet in G Minor (Columbia CX 1012) are all that they should be, which is very good.

Matter of History

A curious but beautiful disc is that presenting Alban Berg's cantata for soprano and orchestra, *Der Wein*. Alban Berg is the most famous disciple of atonalist Schoenberg. Yet this music, despite its atonal foundation, has a strong feeling of Wagner about it. *Der Wein* (Capitol CCL 7515) is magnificently sung by Charlotte Boerner (soprano), with the Janssen Symphony Orchestra under Werner Janssen. The curious aspect of this recording is that the reverse side is devoted to a commentary and musical analysis of *Der Wein* by Alfred Frankenstein, music critic of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. This is all very well, but having assimilated Mr. Frankenstein's excellent exposition of the music's secrets, one is seized with a monstrous fear at subsequent listenings that he is watching on the other side for any shortcomings in one's attention. Another piece of music would have been better value. And the other music might have been Schoenberg's piano music which is recorded complete by Else C. Kraus (Esquire TW 14-001). Madame Kraus obviously loves Schoenberg's music, and whether or not you share her affection, this is music which, historically at least, cannot be neglected.

August Choice

BEETHOVEN: *The Complete String Quartets*, recorded by the Pascal Quartet. A constant delight and an education in string quartet composition and playing (Nixa CLP 1201-1213).

FALLA: *The Three-Cornered Hat*, the complete ballet played by L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande conducted by Ernest Ansermet. . . Exciting playing of exciting music (Decca LXT 2716).

HINDEMITH: *Mathis der Maler*—the NBC Symphony Orchestra under Guido Cantelli. . . Fine playing of a classic of our own time (HMV BLP 1010).

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