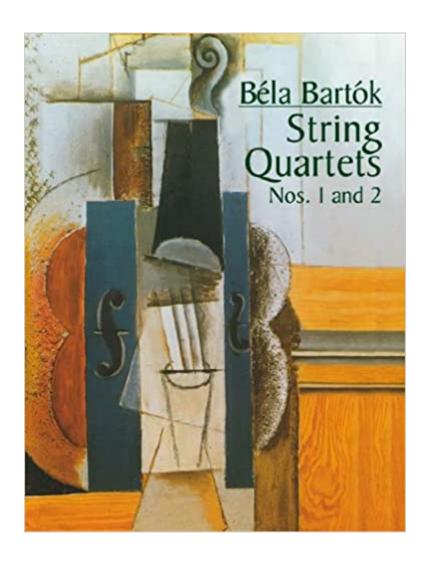


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String Quartets Nos. 1 And 2 (Dover Chamber Music Scores)





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Acclaimed as the most important quartets since Beethoven, the six string quartets of $B\tilde{A}f\hat{A}$ ©la Bart $\tilde{A}f\hat{A}$ k offer a summation of the composer's compositional style and development, and they constitute one of the great monuments of twentieth-century music. This outstanding new volume unites the first two of $Bart\tilde{A}f\hat{A}$ k's chamber masterpieces. The stirring first quartet, written in 1908, captures the composer's great stylistic rebirth, as the intense Romanticism of the opening movement gives way to a propulsive finale reflecting the composer's growing interest in Hungarian folk music. The second quartet, written during World War I, finds $Bart\tilde{A}f\hat{A}$ k's creativity unimpeded by wartime privations. The three-movement work echoes the meditative qualities of the first quartet in its outer movements, but its lively central movement suggests the traditional music of North Africa. A combination of boldly disparate influences, it remains a work of astonishing force and originality.

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