

Takács Quartet, Franck and Debussy review

By **Joshua Kosman** Published 3:13 pm, Monday, June 20, 2016

Takács Quartet, Franck and Debussy



Franck and Debussy Classical

The Takács Quartet is best known for its gritty but stylish approach to the music of German and Eastern European composers — Bartók, Beethoven, Haydn, and so forth. So there's a certain frisson in hearing the group tackle the French chamber repertoire, and do it with a characteristically weighty brand of elegance. Pianist **Marc-André Hamelin** joins the proceedings for a wonderfully forthright and probing account of Franck's F-Minor Quintet, a reading that brings out both the dark-hued density of the score and the more tender, limpid vein that predominates in the central slow movement. But in spite of getting second billing, it's the Debussy String Quartet that really stands out on this disc. It's rare to hear this music played with such corporeal presence, or such a telling blend of suavity and dramatic urgency.

— **Joshua Kosman**

FRANCK & DEBUSSY

CHAMBER WORKS

TAKÁCS QUARTET; MARC-ANDRÉ HAMELIN

HYPERION

