

## **ADELAIDE FESTIVAL REVIEW 2020: COMPOSER & CITIZEN 3 / HEATH QUARTET: CHAMBER LANDSCAPES**

**In the second of three concerts pairing quartets by Michael Tippett and Beethoven, Britain's Heath Quartet is thoroughly engaging and full of exciting, dynamic extremes.**

Melanie Walters, *The Advertiser*  
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### **Composer & Citizen 3 / Heath Quartet: Chamber Landscapes**

**Classical Music / AUSTRALIA, UK, USA**

**UKARIA Cultural Centre**

**Until March 9**

Pairing the final strings quartets of Beethoven and Michael Tippett, the Heath Quartet brought out the aesthetic similarities within the two composers' works in their final Chamber Landscapes performance at UKARIA.

Despite being composed more than 150 years apart, both Tippett's String Quartet No.5 and Beethoven's String Quartet No.16 contain multitudes, moving through a vast array of characters and moods.

Tippett's quartet consists of two rhapsodic-style movements, moving through various small sections in contrasting styles as is common in much of the British composer's music.

Lyrical lines are interspersed between highly chromatic, almost expressionist passages, with dissonant moments woven into otherwise neo-romantic harmonies.

Heath Quartet gave a thoroughly engaging interpretation of this work, with meticulous ensemble playing that remained tightly coordinated even in the rapid detached passage.

A remarkable variety of tonal colours highlighted the ever-changing temperaments of the various sections, with the sparser textures given a feeling of spaciousness.

Beethoven's 16th quartet is well-known for its final movement, subtitled *Der schwer gefaßte Entschluß* (The difficult decision).

The movement's slow, expansive introduction is constructed from a three-note motif that the composer designated *Muss es sein?* (Must it be?), a question that is answered with another three-note motif, *Es muss sein!* (It must be) in the energetic *Allegro* section.

This performance was full of exciting dynamic extremes, particularly during the *Vivace* second movement, in which light, buoyant passages quickly morphed into intense, almost wild climactic peaks.